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[Written for the CHICAGO FIELD.]

Camp Life Memories.

BY JOHN J. BROMPTON.

No. 15.—A BLOODY TRAIL.

When through the woods we blithely stray,
In merry mood the livelong day,
We measure not the days that pass
By falling sands in hour-glass.

At rosy morn we take our leave,
And if, perchance, at dewey eve,
With trophies of the chase we come,
We tell our comrades how 'twas done.

Yes, recounting to an appreciative audience how it was done, constitutes half the pleasure of the chase. A glorious feat is—no less than a thing of beauty—a joy forever. It may reasonably be supposed that it was with no small degree of pleasure Mr. Horn carried the news to his friends at home how he had drawn the first blood; that we were indebted to him for the first pot o' venison; that he entered the ranks a greenhorn and captured the champion's belt. And how, to pay off old scores, he delivered a free lecture to our camp on still hunting, advising us—"When you want gizzards 'don't fool with owls; when you want a turkey don't shoot a shoot; it's mortifying to one's vanity and it may give one an odious repute with the swine-herd. When you've found a deer, or a deer has found you, 'keep cool and don't forget the notch in your rear sight, and I predict with unqualified confidence that, 'if you'll pint your gun at it,' that that deer will either 'drop in his tracks or leave behind him a bloody trail.'"

And thus, out of our own mouths, he condemned us; and thus, with our own club, did he belabor us; and thus, with axioms we had taught him, he stopped our mouths, and served us right.

A WARM RECEPTION.

On the following morning we came to a "run-way" which bore evidence of recent use. On closer scrutiny the "sign" revealed the fact that a doe and fawn had passed but a short time previous. "What better can I do," I said to myself, "than to climb upon something—a lodged tree for instance—above the danger line of his nose, and ambush the buck that will soon follow on their trails?" On casting about for one of nature's scaffolds my eye caught sight of a large fallen oak, whose spur roots, some ten feet above ground, would afford an excellent look-out. I approached it and, with one hand on one of its roots, was in the act of climbing when I heard a sharp whack which my experienced ear instantly interpreted to be a buck's horns coming in contact with an overhanging bough. Under such circumstances how quickly we can drop! I dropped on one knee, cocking each barrel as I did so, and lo! a buck was coming on the trail! Glancing along the trail in advance of him, I selected a place which was comparatively free from underbrush, where, if he continued to advance, the dark deed was to be done. It was the beginning of "running time," and he was coming, head down, and nosing the trail.

"Mah!" said I, and as quick as a flash he halted, and threw up his head, displaying a handsome head of horns and the most graceful form I ever looked at with my shooting eye, so to speak. Gods! but he was graceful and tall; full of life and vigor; gamey and proud; wary, yet defiant to all save him to whom dominion was given over the beasts of the field; swift and untiring in his flight, yet gamey to the last gasp when at bay. For a moment thus he stood, half defiant, half fearful; his senses all alert, his eyes gleaming, his nostrils dilated, his ears moving to and fro—defiant to his rivals, fearing only man. No animal walks the earth with prouder step, and few can match him in grace and fleetness. And when he falls, wounded and bleeding, his motto is: "War to the knife."

Who, in cool blood, can slay such a noble animal and feel no compunction? Who, after having lain him low among the ferns, who, after his death-struggles shall have ceased and the fire in his eye shall have gone out, does not experience remorse for the deed, and pity for the victim?

Only a fractional part of a second intervened between the challenge and the shot. One hand's breadth above the lowest part of his chest, and a half hand's breadth behind his fore-leg, was the place at which I aimed, and then touched the set-trigger. Away, away he bounded! Half dazed I followed him with

my staring eyes until he disappeared among the shrubbery.

He was mortally hurt.

How did I know?

1. His course was irregular—zig-zag—to express it in hunter's parlance.

2. He ran with his "flag" down, and flourished, or "switched" it.

3. He blundered over logs and bushes as if he were blind.

Having reloaded my rifle, I went to the spot where he had stood before I fired. The exact place I was able to locate by a tree.

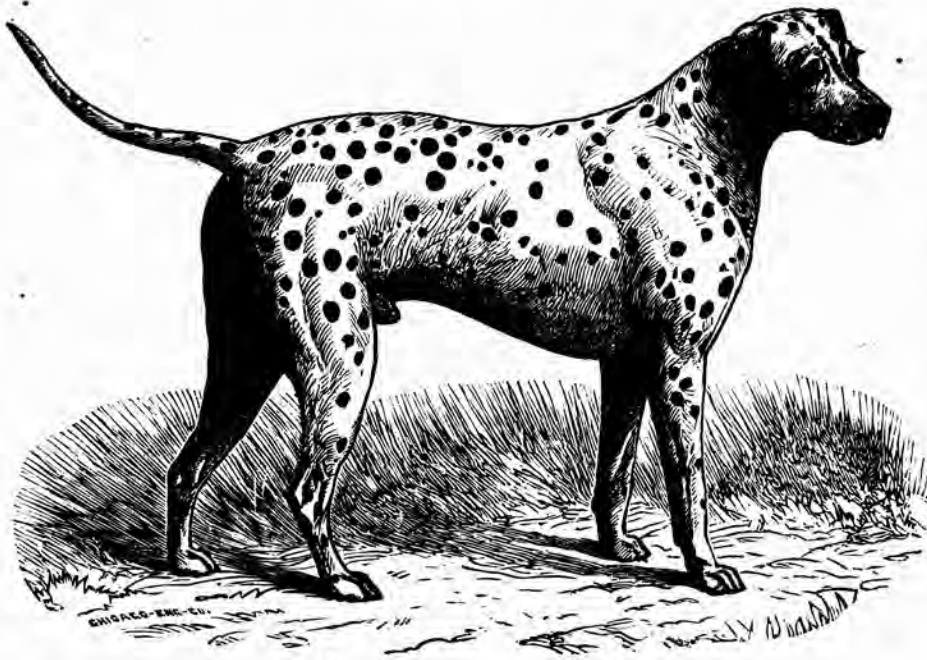
There were "blood and hair." Each jump was marked by a spot of pale, frothy blood, such as comes from the lungs. At the end of 150 yards I found him quite dead. His last jump had ended in a somersault.

The ball struck three inches higher than I intended, which is my usual luck—cause, hot blood.

"Pity thee, so I do," now that my blood has cooled, and, like mourning friends,

The drooping ferns weep o'er thy bed,
While grass and leaf, with slaughter red,
Inspire the woe—alas! now vain—
That mine had been an erring aim.

Man is at best but a bundle of mystifying contradictions. In cool blood he may sometimes resemble an angel; in hot blood,



MR. FAWDRY'S DALMATIAN DOG CAPTAIN.—(SEE PAGE 84.)

a fiend. When, a few minutes ago, we met and mine was the hope of conquest, and his the fear of a human foe, and the result stood balanced "on the brink of fate all doubtful," if my heart had been of adamant it could not have been less susceptible of pity. But now, as I stood by the noble quarry, and looked in his glazed eye, and on his graceful form, now growing rigid in the cold embrace of death, and on the gory leaves and ferns, a sense of guilt came o'er me. My conscience smote me as the thought came like an accusing witness, that

Nevermore shall he wake to the voice of the morn,
Nor list to the sound of the huntsman's horn;
Nevermore shall he leap with a rainbow bound,
Nor start at the cry of the trumpet-tongued hound;
Nevermore shall he lie to his "scraping" ground,
Nor flaunt his white flag at the bugle's sound.

And now we'll suspend a white rag to an overhanging limb, as a signal for a truce to the raven and the wolf;

Then we'll leave him alone, on the field where he fell,
Alone 'mong the ferns that he once loved so well.

In the meantime each bush and tree seemed to say in dolorous lament:

Though before this day many sad ones have been,
This is the saddest that ever was seen.

MY RECEPTION AT CAMP.

"Huyr comes a red-handed 'pirate!'" exclaimed Johnnie, as, looking up from his broiling grouse and venison, he noted my approach, and the blood on my hands.

"Another black-and-sandy shoot gone to the Happy Land o' Canan, I allow," said he.

"The blood of a-fe-to-fum;—I smell he blood of a buck, this time."

"See how his eyes shine!" said Mr. Seamans.

"Buck, or doe?" he asked.

"As handsome a buck as ever graced a trophy pole," said I, with a feeling of gratified ambition.

"Load his pipe, Johnnie," said Mr. Seamans, "and let's hear how 'twas done."

Then, seated on a three-legged chair I recounted, between whiffs of soothing kinnickinick, how 'twas done.

At the conclusion of my story Mr. Seamans said: "If you had come on the trail fifteen minutes earlier, you might have added to your score the doe and fawn."

"Or five minutes later, and missed all three of them," I rejoined.

"True; well, it's glory enough for one day, anyhow. I came very near having a little glory, myself, to-day."

"Ah! tell us about it?" said I.

"I got a snap at a fat, sleek doe, broadside on, and she stood until I was in the act of placing a fresh cap on the tube; but just a second before I was ready, she disappeared behind a fallen tree-top. Her fawn—which I had not observed before—came running after her, and I fired at it; but I presume I missed it."

A few days afterwards we found its putrid remains. Many a deer is lost through negligence in observing the "sign," or in consequence of inability to understand it. This is but one instance among a multitude that throngs my memory, where a deer has been lost by taking it for granted that, because it did not drop in its tracks, it had escaped unscathed.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

BOB WHITE TWITS DOUBTFUL JOHN.
Editor Chicago Field:—I know of nothing more awkward than an attempt to champion a cause relative to which we have no personal knowledge; and I fancy "Doubtful John," when he looks in the glass and sees himself as others see him, will realize the force of this axiom. Why he should have essayed to vindicate "Woodcock" or to reprimand me I am at a loss. Surely the former don't need his assistance, for he carries a sharper pen and better English. Possibly our Wilkesbarre friend conceived a duel with "pistols and coffee for three," and desired to play second to somebody and hold the bottle. John don't seem to be at home on conundrums, and fails to see the point of the joke about the 300 woodcocks in the Omaha market. But what if "Woodcock" did draw it a little large as to the size of his daily bags, don't other correspondents do the same sometimes? What if he did palm off a tame pigeon upon the credulous hostess of the Furnam house (not Farmers) for woodcock on toast, were not Dr.

Smith and Charley Selick equally culpable as accessories before the fact? I will give another conundrum for "John" to solve. If Dr. Smith wiped "Woodcock's" eye seven times on that day's hunt and the united bag of the Doctor, Selick and "Woodcock" was twenty-one head, how could his bag have numbered forty-one woodcocks? Now, if our lawyer friend, who it seems has had one case and lost that for want of "authorities," can solve this problem, I will feel constrained to accept him as my *Pater familias*. But, "John," Wilkesbarre is too far East. "Go West, young man," and grow up with the country. And should your pilgrimage lead you to Omaha you shall receive the hospitable hand of

BOB WHITE.

LOTS OF THEM FLYING.—Missouri Valley, Iowa.—Editor Chicago Field:—Weather delightful—more like May than March—no frost in the ground or ice in the sloughs, and the ducks are coming to see us. Mr. J. W. Cook reports killing fifteen mallards the 4th, and that they are quite plenty in the lakes near the Missouri River, and the sportsmen are loading shells and scouring guns for the battle soon to be waged. Some geese on the sand bars of the river, and they have been passing north for the last month. If this weather continues a short time and we can have a warm rain, then we may look for Mr. Scolopaz and family, when we may enjoy some glorious sport. Mr. H. C. Champlin, of this place, has lately purchased the Carlowitz—True bitch Belle, two years old, sister to Royal Duke, and she is a very fine bitch, but not well broken; but Mr. C. thinks before the chicken season is over he will have her under control. QUINNEBAUG.

The Horse.

THOROUGHbred Sires for Work Horses.—Chicago, Ill.—Editor *Chicago Field*.—In case of war now there will be a tremendous drain of middle-classed horses to recruit the army, both for England and Austria, and even if mares are unfortunately purchased up, it is bad for the country, but it will prove an eventual harvest for those who are wise enough to hold their stock and breed from it. On the other hand, in case peace is speedily and firmly restored, there is almost bound to be a reaction in trade, and foreign governments—Russia in particular—is certain to draw largely for horses from every quarter. There was a brisker trade between England and Germany for fashionable horses during the three years which followed the great war than there had been for a long time before, and there is this reason to account for it, that the moneyed classes were once more free to enjoy the pleasures of life without any great chances of being disturbed for some years to come. Packs of hounds were established in Germany after the war, studs of hunters sent out, carriage horses of quality in large numbers, and many fresh additions to the racing studs. It must follow in the same groove as regards Russia, for, although they are poor as a people, they are rich as a nobility, and they know how to live and spend money. Anyhow it must be a certain gain to go in for breeding horses of all denominations, from the race horse to the pony, and everything goes further to prove that for nine classes of horses out of ten there is nothing like a thoroughbred sire. The French saw this thirty years ago, and a circumstance has developed only lately to show that they are more confident in the idea than ever, for the government is giving bigger prices by nearly one-half for middle class stallions in comparison with what they gave a dozen years ago. Irish hunters are better than the majority of English horses, simply because Irish breeders have bred more from the thoroughbred, and the breed of horses in any country is not determined by individual breeding, but by the mass of the public. It is thus that a stamp is fixed. If one or two good thoroughbred horses even are well followed in a neighborhood, it is wonderful the good they do in future generations, but it is the here-and-there breeding which makes the confused mixture, England and this is a strong argument against male breeding. Nothing is bad enough in the matter of odd looking ones about, but nothing like the male breeding districts of the continent or our country. One could not find horses in any county in England to correspond with the brutes to be found in France and Spain. Such saddle-headed, weak shouldered, or cat hammed animals, are only found where mules are bred, and it is simply on account of the equine family being tainted. It is a certainty, beyond all question, that one sire will effect the produce of a mare for life, or in fact as regards any animal, or even man; therefore it is not reasonable that a host of mares might be spoiled by male breeding, and future generations entirely affected? This principle might well be more considered, for, on the score of convenience, a lot of foals are bred every year by chance stallions, often enough by two-year-olds just before they are castrated, and it is not much thought of if some little wretch of a pony stallion has his services called into requisition. Now, supposing the conviction became more widely spread, that either a bit of bad judgment or a mishap would spoil a mare as a breeder for life, would not breeders think more about good stallions, and thereby breed better stock than they do now? It is almost singular that such thoughts have not entered into the heads of all breeders before; for, in England as regards foxhounds, it has been a rule of over fifty years' standing that if a bitch gets loose, and becomes the consort of a cur, her produce through that connection are not only destroyed, but she is never bred from again. With them too in breeding dogs of all sorts the same rule is strictly adhered to, and in such a way that I believe that if a bitch was sold for breeding, and a discovery of the sort was subsequently made, an action at law would hold good on the ordinary custom of the country. Midding sires might, to a certain extent, injure a mare in comparative degrees. So considering the great and increasing value of horses, it behooves breeders of every description of horse to study the subject with the deepest concern.

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB.—The Maryland Jockey Club announced sweepstakes to close on the 1st of this month, and the entries were fully as large as was anticipated by the club. Four of the sweepstakes were for the Spring meeting, which commences on May 21 and continues four days, and the two others were the Breckinridge Stake, to be run in the Fall, and the Dixie Stakes, of 1879. The Baltimore Cup, for all ages, two miles and a quarter, \$50 subscription, half forfeit, the club to add \$1,000, of which \$200 to the second horse, the third to save his stakes, closed with twelve entries, comprising Tom Ochiltree, Loiterer, Tom Bacon, General Phillips, Parole, Zoo Zoo, Barricade, Crouse's Joe, Derby, Algerine, Bushwhacker and Ambush. The Vernal sweepstakes for three-year-olds that have not won in their two-year-old form, of \$25 each, play or pay; colts to carry 100 lbs.; fillies and geldings 97 lbs.; the club to add \$500, of which \$100 to the second horse; the distance one mile, closed with twenty-three nominations. The Peyton Handicap Stakes for four-year-olds; \$50 each, half forfeit, and only \$10 if declared out; the club to add \$500 to the first horse and \$100 to the second; weights to be announced April 15, and declarations to be made on or before May 15; one mile heats, has twenty-two nominations, among them best known being Idalia, Oriole, General Phillips, Zoo Zoo, Rife, Bushwhacker, Frederick the Great and Sammamoa. The Rancocas Handicap, one mile and an eighth, for all ages; \$50 entrance, half forfeit, and only \$10 if declared out; weights to be announced April 15, and declarations to be made on or before May 15; the club to add \$500, of which \$100 to be given to the second horse, closed with thirty-seven nominations, which is a remarkable number for a new stake. Among the entries are the familiar names of Idalia, Ore Knob, Kenney, Oriole, Rhamanthus, Zoo Zoo, General Phillips, Perfection, Cuba, Cloverbrook, Viator, Viceroy, Rife, Helmsman, Palmetto, Parole, Bushwhacker, Majestic, Inspiration and Ambush. The Breckinridge Stakes (to be run in the Fall) for three-year-olds; \$300 subscription; \$100 forfeit, and only \$25 if declared out on or before October 1; winner of the Dixie Stakes 5 lbs. extra; the club to add \$1,000, of which \$500 to go to the second horse, the third to save his stakes; two miles, closed with forty-three nominations. Among them are Duke of Magenta, Albert, Danicheff, Spartan, Pique, Perfection, Pride of the Village, Pomeroy, Leveller, Himyar, Axiom, Brazil, Jim Bell, Franklin, Bennett and other good ones that may come to the front and be favorites before the Spring meetings are over. The Dixie Stakes to be run during the Fall meeting of 1879, for colts and fillies then three years old; two miles; \$100 subscription, \$50 forfeit; the club to add \$1,500; of which \$1,000 to the first horse, \$500 to the second and the third to save his stakes, closed with seventy-nine nominations, representing all sections of the country and all the fashionable strains of blood.

BY-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association have authorized the publication of their by-laws and charter. After establishing a board of fifteen directors, the by-laws make the following permanent ex-officio members of the Board: The Adjutant General, Inspector General, Commissary General, and Chief of Ordnance, the General Inspector of Rifle Practice, and the commanding officers of the First, Second, Third and Fifth divisions of the New York militia officers, and as if to show that the National Rifle Association is to all intents and purposes a state rather than a national organization, the following named generals of the regular army of the U. S. are placed on the roll of honorary members only of the Board: The General commanding the army of the United States, the several departmental commanders, the superintendent of the West Point Military Academy, the Chief of Ordnance of the Army of the United States, and the adjutant generals of the various states and territories throughout the Union.

DEATH OF WOODFORD CHIEF.—The famous young stallion Woodford Chief, owned by Colonel R. P. Pepper, of Frankfort, Ky., died on the 19th inst., at the stable of his trainers, Macey Brothers, Versailles. Woodford Chief was a bay stallion, bred by Benjamin Williams, of Woodford county, Ky., and he was foaled in the Spring of 1872. His sire was Clark Chief, who was by Mambrino Chief, out of Little Nora, by Bay Messenger. The dam of Woodford Chief was Virginia, by the race horse Billy Towns, son of imported Fyde. The best time of the stallion was a second heat in 2:32½ last Summer.

ST. LOUIS JOCKEY CLUB.—In addition to the ten valuable stakes of the St. Louis Jockey Club, that closed in February with 237 entries, they offer six purses, entrance free, for which \$1,950 are appropriated. This makes fifteen events for the four days, to which \$8,950 is given. The prospect for a grand gathering at St. Louis in June is extremely flattering, and it will be one of the best meetings ever held in America. The officers of the above association have in contemplation to give two trotting stakes, for three and four-year-olds at their trotting meeting in July.

Answers to Correspondents.

KENNEL.

F. W. O., Denver.—We would recommend your communicating with the Secretary of the Pioneer Coursing Club, San Francisco, Cal. He would probably give the best satisfaction.

H. M. M., Washington.—Are not the pups bred in this country native, though both sire and dam are imported? Ans.—The rules under which our shows have been held make the first generation from imported stock come under the same head as their parents. The second generation is, however, regarded as native.

INQUIRER, Sterling.—What is the breeding of Mr. Burgess' Queen Mab that won at St. Louis? 2. Do you know whether she has been bred lately, and to what dog? Ans.—Queen Mab was bred by Mr. Llewellyn, and is by his Dan out of Nelly, sister to Countess. 2. Queen Mab is now in whelp to Rob Roy, will whelp early in April.

T. W., Tarrytown.—I have a fine well-grown bitch, nearly thirteen months old. I do not want to keep a bitch and think of breeding her as she is coming in season. Do you consider her too young, and what dog would you advise me to use? Ans.—Your bitch is too young. We cannot discriminate in favor of any of the dogs advertised in our columns.

C. B. K., Jersey City.—What do you consider the true origin of the dog kind, and do you think that all the present breeds sprang from one stock? Ans.—The origin of the dog is a question upon which authorities differ; also the origin of different breeds. Some breeds are, however, doubtless the production of crosses between two or more varieties.

M. N. E., Charlotte.—My dog is suffering from canker of the ear in bad form. He has considerable discharge, the ear is hot and inflamed, and there are raw places where he has dug with his claws. Can you give me a remedy? I have tried lead wash without effect. Ans.—The best treatment we know of is to syringe the ear three times a day, and pour into it about a teaspoonful of carbolic acid solution, which you can get at any drug store. Do not feed any meat till the ear is well.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Please advise me at what age is it best to spay a bitch, and after what age is it unsafe? Ans.—Spaying of bitches is a violation of nature, so the younger it is done the better, as it produces less shock to the system, and the changed condition of things sooner becomes second nature; from three to six months we think is the proper time, though any time before the first heat will do; after that age and after having bred it is not particularly dangerous in skillful hands, but there is a tendency to obesity.

FISH.

TAXIDERMIST.—The cast shells of crabs or lobsters are better for specimens, if they can be obtained, than the entire animal. We have none at present. The horseshoe crab can be shipped to you alive; they live from two to three weeks out of water.

S. E.—How can I rig a reel on a common cane? Ans.—With a sliding ring as usual, or split the cane and insert a wooden butt, winding it as is done with rods of split bamboo; some reels have a ring and are screwed up tight on the rod, but we prefer the other way. Whip on the rings and tip with silk and varnish with shellac.

GRAYLING.—Wading boots are useless on the Au Sable, as the pools are too deep. The brush is too thick to fish from the shore, and boat fishing is the only way that good sport can be assured. Telegraph to the hotel at Crawford if boats can be had; if not, buy one in Bay City and take it by rail. Go in July, August or September—not later. They are through spawning in May, but not in best condition. Will be pleased to receive notes of the trip.

LONG ISLAND.—1. What is the device called "gig and jack" for taking fish? 2. Is it a sportsmanlike method? 3. Where can I find the best masacul fishing, and at what time? Ans.—1. "Gig" is only another term for spear, and is generally used on the Mississippi and its tributaries, while a "jack" is a torch, or a cage of iron strips to contain a fire, usually in form of a bow in a ring supported by a staff, to allow it to keep upright when the latter is inclined, so as to drop the ashes and fire overboard; the loose bark from shell bark hickory is best for light. 2. It requires some skill to gig a fish, as the latter is not in the place where it seems; there is no objection to it for some fish, but we would say no for trout, grayling, salmon, bass, etc. 3. Probably on the St. Lawrence, among the Thousand Islands, during the Summer months.

REASON.—In "The Sea," by Michlet, page 207, I read: "The gigantic poulpe, who should enlure the smallest of the crab family, would do so at the risk of losing his antennae, and the greediest of fish would venture to swallow so hard a morsel." 1. Are the arms of the great squids so easily bitten off by a little crab? 2. Is the crab of Europe the same as ours? 3. Is not the authority mistaken about fish not eating crabs? Ans.—1. No; on the contrary the principal food of the octopus, which is never large, is crabs. 2. The crabs of America are distinct from the species of Europe; one of the latter is very large, sometimes a foot across. 3. The "authority" is no authority at all; some fish live mostly on crabs. Michlet, Victor Hugo and Jules Verne do much harm in mixing in an occasional fact concerning natural history in their works of exaggeration. They cannot be naturalists, or they would despise exaggeration in any form.

B.—Salmon. although passing the greater portion of their lives in salt water, do not seem to be capable of living in it until at least nine months or more old. The density of sea water is probably too much for their gills. It is doubtful if the salt water was added gradually, taking two weeks or more to change to the density of the sea, or even of shore water, if they would survive. This, however, is only a surmise, as we have not tried it. The last time that we killed any young salmon with salt water was to exhibit its effects to Maj. T. B. Ferguson, the Maryland Fish Commissioner, when half a dozen fish, some four months old, were put directly into sea water, when they soon showed signs of suffering from asphyxia, and in half an hour were mostly on their backs breathing heavily. One died in about an hour, when the others were taken out, and with great difficulty recovered in fresh water, the resuscitation occupying a longer time than the drowning.

An aquarium, where such questions could be solved, would be a great desideratum, but unfortunately the one started a year and a half ago, after a course of popular shows is now contemplating the erection of a "variety" stage. *Sic transit gloria avari.*

TRAP SHOOTING.

S. L., Des Moines.—I want the name of some firm to make us a cup badge or trophy for our state shoot. Ans.—C. D. Peacock, 93 State street, Chicago, has done us some very good work.

S. A., Sheldon, Ill.—Please inform me where I can buy a single-barrel breach-loader, ten-gauge, thirty-five inch barrel, ten and a half pounds weight. Ans.—We don't know of any firm making so heavy a single-barrel gun. You can get a good one made to order in this city.

H. O. T., Leland.—1. Could Dittmar powder be mixed with Hazard's No. 4 Ducking? 2. What proportion could you use in a Parker thirty-inch ten-gauge, nine-lbs., six-ounce gun? 3. Do you think chilled shot better than soft? Ans.—1. We wouldn't like to try the experiment. 2. All Hazard and no Dittmar. 3. The subject is being investigated in our columns. There is room for more experiments.

H. L., La Crosse, Wis.—(1). Where can I buy one of Huber & Merwin's champion ball traps, and at what prices. (2). Also where can I get glass balls. (3). If possible, the feather filled balls. Ans.—(1). We don't know, unless it is of the makers. Our only means of knowing the whereabouts of such goods is through our advertising columns. (2). Several firms advertise the sale of glass balls; it would be invidious to make distinctions, their cards in our advertising columns speak for themselves. (3). Headquarters Bohemian Glass Works, 214 Pearl St., New York.

W. C., Muskegon, Mich.—A. stands to the score, shoots at the ball in the air, pieces of glass are seen to fly from ball when shot at; upon examination of ball by the judge he finds it was the nozzle or neck of a broken ball that was shot off; does it score a lost or hit ball for A. (2). C. takes the stand, shoots at the ball while in the air, nothing is seen to fly from ball when shot at; upon examination the judge finds the ball fly from ball when shot at; what he considered a shot mark on the glass, but well cracked, and what he considered a shot mark on the glass, but there was no hole through the glass; does it score a hit or miss for C. Ans.—Hit ball for A. (2). Lost ball for C. The ball must be broken in the air.

E. F. E., Muskegon, Mich.—Glass ball shooting, Boudard rules. (1). Has the shooter a right to raise his gun to his shoulder the instant he says "pull," or must he wait until the trap is sprung and ball "on the wing," same as in pigeon shooting? (2). Referee calls "miss," but upon examining the ball a small hole is found evidently made by a pellet of shot. Is ball lost? (3). If a small piece be knocked off the neck of ball by shot while it is in air, does it score in favor of shooter, although the body of ball remains solid; or is it intended by Mr. Boudard that the body of balls must be broken? (4). Should the referee change his decision after calling "miss," upon finding a piece out of ball, as its striking the ground or other broken glass might have knocked it out? Ans.—(1). He can raise the gun when he calls "pull." (2). It is a broken ball. (3). It does. (4). No; the ball must be broken in the air, and the referee must be so satisfied.

RIFLE.

A. N. H., Idaho City.—Have sent you by mail a pamphlet which will post you on all the matters you write about. You will find the targets on page 54, and rules as a guide on page 52.

ENQUIRER, Chicago.—I see by your issue of March 9, that Freeman and Chenoweth tie on the eighth contest for the CHICAGO FIELD Badge. Is this according to rule? Ans.—Not according to Creedmoor (N. R. A.) rules, which are generally accepted as governing most rifle practice. Paragraph 6, of section X, on "ties," reads, "If still a tie, by inverse order of shots, counting singly from the last to the first;" thus counting backwards, Freeman's fifth shot is better than Chenoweth's.

Natural History.

The Game of America.

BY ARCHER.

Author of "Game of Arctic Lands;" "Game of Michigan;" "Canine Therapeutics and Pathology;" "Diseases of Dogs in Sportsman's Gazetteer;" "Lake Superior Reminiscences."

(Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1878, by MARSH & CO. in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.)

LETTER No. VI.—THE GROUSE.

THE ROCK PTARMIGAN.—(*Lagopus rupestris*, Leach).

This is the rock grouse of Pennant and *Lagopus americanus* of Audubon, and has been by many writers confounded with the European ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*). It is not at all unlikely, however, that the latter species also visit the "Barren Grounds" of America, as it is a common inhabitant of Iceland and Greenland. The two species differ but little in Summer and Autumnal plumage only; and even then they are to be distinguished only by the uniformly black feathers on the breast in the former, and bluish cast noticeable in the latter season. The *Lagopus mutus* has more of a gray spotted plumage. Professor Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, declares that, in Winter plumage, those of both species which he examined are absolutely identical in size, proportion and color.

The differences between the American rock ptarmigan and the willow grouse, are to be found in the smaller size of the former, and its more slender and elongated bill. The black stripe through the eye of the male rock ptarmigan is not found in either sex of the willow grouse.

The rock ptarmigan has the bill from the nasal groove considerably longer than the greatest depth of both mandibles taken together. The gonys is about equal in width to the lower mandible below. The first quill is intermediate in length between the sixth and seventh; claws very large and broad, equal to the culmen; tail seven and one-half inches in length, or two-thirds the wing, consisting of thirteen black feathers with four middle white ones.

The male bird in Winter is pure immaculate, with the exception of the fourteen tail feathers, which are black throughout the year, and narrowly tipped with white, and a black line through and behind the eye. The shafts of the larger primaries are brown externally, except along the edges.

In Summer the plumage of the back is black, with narrow transverse bars of yellowish brown, tipped with white, the brown bars being largest on the basal half. The terminal ones are usually interrupted towards the shaft, and the last of all, sometimes continuous, and separated from the white tip by black. Much the greater exposed portions of the feathers are black. Beneath, and to some extent on the head, the brownish bars are lighter and much broader, imparting a yellowish tint. The chin is whitish, spotted with black. The entire wing, with the exception of the middle coverts and the tertials are white, as is also the middle space of the belly. The outer web of the external tail feather is white.

Prof. Baird remarks that specimens from the northwest coast of Alaska had the feathers of a chestnut color, mottled black, and with little or no white edging.

The female differs little, if any, from the male in Winter plumage, except that the black stripe through the eye is wanting. In Summer she has the wings white, with the exception of the upper coverts; the legs also are of the same color. The tail, with the exception of the four central feathers, is black, narrowly tipped with white. The balance of the plumage is of a light ochraceous buff, some of the feathers being tipped with white, and all with broad transverse bars of black, this latter color prevailing extensively on the dorsal region. On the lower surface, the buff bars exceed the black ones in width.

The male is about fourteen and one-half inches in length, with a spread of wing of two feet; length of wing seven and three-fourths inches. Irides, yellowish brown.

The rock grouse, or ptarmigan, is emphatically a bird of the barrens, being most abundant along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, the extreme northwestern portion of the Peninsula of Alaska, and the sterile wastes on either side of Fox Channel and Hudson's Strait, between Hudson's Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It is seldom seen in either the York or Severn districts, except during those seasons whose severity is such as to cause the willow ptarmigans to migrate more to the southward. Pliny applied the term *lagopi*, or harefooted, to the ptarmigans, because of the dense feathering on the legs, reaching to the very claws, like the fur on the foot of the hare; the nails too, are very long, broad, and hollow. The first circumstance guards them from the rigor of the Winter, and the latter enables them to form a lodge underneath the snow, where they often lie huddled together to protect them from the cold. They are found mostly on the high ground, or summits of the hills, living amidst the moss-covered rocks, and perching on the gray stones, the general color of the strata in the high northern regions. According to Captain Sabine, they abound in Melville Island in the Summer, where they arrive in their snowy white Winter dress about the middle of May. By the first of June, the females begin to assume their colored plumage, which is completed by the end of the first or second week; while the change in the males had but just commenced. Some of the latter may be found still wearing their Winter dress as late as the middle of the month. They nest in a similar manner to their more Southern congeners, the willow ptarmigans, building on the ground, and placing the materials in a natural or artificial depression, and lined with hay, without leaves, and a few feathers, all being thrown together in rather a loose and illy arranged manner. This is usually placed on the open barren or plain, frequently near the banks of some small stream. They are earlier in breeding than other species of ptarmigans, for young broods of goodly size are commonly seen in the last week of June, or first in July. The eggs vary in number from five to twelve, from six to eight being the ordinary number. The Indian tribes say the males, in the early part of the love season, are given to inordinate venery, often to an unnatural degree; even pursuing the female to her nest, and breaking her eggs rather than not indulge his inclination; this undoubtedly accounts for the limited number of eggs usually found in the nests.

The female while incubating sits very close, and rather than forsake her eggs, will oftentimes allow herself to be taken by the hand. When a nest is approached, she crouches as closely as possible, evidently in the hope of escaping detection; and the ruse is usually successful, unless her bright and restless eyes are observed, so exactly do the sober colors of her Summer plumage harmonize and assimilate with the sombre hues of the landscape.

In some respects, these ptarmigans are very silly birds, in others, the most acute of the grouse family. They are so tame as to bear driving like poultry; and if provoked to rise, take very short flights, making a great circuit like pigeons. In cunning and instinct, particularly in defense of their broods, and escaping from their four-footed and winged foes, they are inferior to no bird that flies. Perhaps, as they live in the open in plain

sight of their enemies, they have more occasion to put these little arts in practice, and learn by habit the means of evasion and safety. Whenever therefore, they perceive the great white gyrfalcon, they at once seek safety beside some mossy knoll, or lichen covered rock, where they squat immovably, appearing as part of the substance chosen as shelter. If a fox, dog, or other formidable animal approaches their nest, the female uses every means to draw him away. She keeps just before him, pretends to be incapable of flying, just hops up, and then falls down before him, but never goes off so far as to discourage her pursuer. At length, when she has drawn him away from her secret treasure, she at once takes wing, and fairly leaves him to gaze after her in despair. After the danger is over and the enemy withdrawn, she calls her young, who assemble at once at her cry, and follow wherever she leads them. The young broods follow the parent during the whole summer. In winter, old and young assemble in flocks of forty or fifty for their southern migration, and all are then exceedingly shy and wild.

The islands of the Arctic Ocean are favorite breeding places, and in summer they are the most abundant land birds found on the shores of this frigid sea. The general opinion of the Anglo-Americans in the employ of the Hudson Bay Fur Company is that the species is never found west of Swan River, and one gentleman assured me that the ptarmigan of the bleak regions of Northern Alaska is not the rock grouse, but the European variety, *Lagopus mutus*, supplementing the information with the statement that they migrate each season to and from Kamtschatka. This would hardly seem probable, as neither the rock ptarmigan, nor its Old World congener, are birds of long flights. Mr. McFarlane informs me that in the year 1862, during a journey to Franklin Bay, he met these grouse west of Swan River for the first time. Every season, almost immediately after leaving the wooded belt that fringed the shores of the river, he began to meet with these birds, which were found as far as, and all along the Arctic coast. Although constantly feeding in large numbers along the barrens, it is always difficult to find their nests. The eggs closely resemble those of the willow grouse, but are somewhat smaller size, marked by a ground of deep reddish-cream color, nearly covered by large blotches of a reddish chestnut, giving a beautifully variegated effect to the whole.

The ptarmigan of the Romanzoff Mountains, northwest of Fort Yukon, is asserted to be the *Lagopus rupestris* by Mr. Dall, but he was unable to speak with any degree of accuracy regarding its further western or southern range. It is certainly an inhabitant of the region in the neighborhood of Yukon House. Upon the mainland it is found most abundantly perhaps between Horton River and Franklin Bay, and may be observed standing singly and feeding on the ground, or an occasional pair will be seen, but never any number in company, except just prior to their semi-annual migrations. Their extreme southern limit seems to be the fifty-third parallel of latitude in the interior; but on the coast of Hudson Bay they frequently are met with as low down as the fifty-eighth degree; and in very severe winters a degree further south. At such times specimens reach the northern shore of Newfoundland, where it is known as the mountain partridge. It is by no means common, however.

In general manners and mode of living there is great similarity between the rock and willow ptarmigan, but the *rupestris* does not retire as far into the wooded regions as the latter in winter. At this season it is more inclined to haunt the open forests than the dense thickets. The open woods that border the streams and lakes, especially those under the sixty-fifth parallel, are favorite localities; still the bulk of the species remain in the "Barren Grounds." Mosses, lichens, insects, berries, buds, etc., constitute their food. In winter lichens and mosses, for which they dig beneath the snow, are almost their only resource, and then they must of necessity be inferior for the table; but in summer, when fattened on the numerous insect pests which swarm in myriads in high latitudes at this season, and on the black crowberry (*Empetrium nigrum*), which grows in abundance in the sterile wastes, they furnish a very palatable and even luxurious dish. The males, particularly young cocks, are very pugnacious, and indulge in severe combats at times; but whether the species is monogamous or polygamous I am unable to say; probably the former, from the fact of more than two birds seldom ever being seen together during the breeding season.

THE WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN—*Lagopus leucurus*, Rich'd.

Bill rather slender, the length from the nasal groove being considerably greater than the height of both mandibles together. The gonys is somewhat longer than the width of the lower mandibles at the end of the lateral feathers. The lower mandible possesses a prominent ridge on the sides below. Tail rather short, measuring less than four inches—scarcely more than half the length of the wings, which are full seven inches. The first quill is intermediate between the sixth and seventh. The superciliary membrane, like all the genus, is red. Irides hazel.

In winter the white-tailed ptarmigan is of a pure white color, with a slight roseate hue, which extends even to the tail feathers. The shafts of the larger primaries are brown.

In summer, the wings, tail, abdomen, anal region and legs are of immaculate snowy white, while the rest of the plumage has a ground color of grayish-white, which on the head becomes ashy-buff; on other portions of the body, it is finely and rather sparsely sprinkled with black, which inclines to form ragged transverse bars anteriorly and on the sides.

Length, about thirteen inches, with an alar extent of twenty-three. Average weight, about nineteen ounces.

We owe the discovery of this species to Mr. Drummond, a gentleman for a time connected with the Hudson's Bay Company, and its first description was given by William Swainson, (not John Swainson, the editor of the *Swedish Pioneer*, as one author would have it,) in *Fauna Boreali Americana*. It is entirely alpine in habit seemingly, being found only among the exalted peaks of the great mountain range that bisects the North American continent. It is not only the smallest of American ptarmigans, but it is the only one that can, with propriety, be considered as an inhabitant of the United States, it being found as far south as Colorado, where it is known to the miners and hunters under the names of white and mountain quail. They are easily distinguished from other ptarmigans by the tail, which is white at all seasons. In summer the toes are feathered for only half their length, but with the approach of winter the hair-like feathers extend to the very claws. It is said that some individuals have the claws notched on the sides.

Though the smallest of our grouse, the white-tailed ptarmigan is inferior to none in beauty. Throughout its entire range, from Cochetopé Pass, in latitude thirty-nine north, through British America to Alaska, it exists nowhere in numbers sufficient to tempt the sportsman to its pursuit, and its discovery may be considered rather as the result of accident than otherwise, for many fur traders who have passed their lives almost in the Rocky Mountain chain, have yet to meet with their first specimen. Like other ptarmigans, the white-tailed species goes through an almost continual moult, which lasts throughout the summer and autumn months, which causes such variation of plumage that it is almost impossible to find two individuals colored alike; and during this season, from May to September, their plumage is very scant and ragged. In winter, the plumage is very heavy

and compact, which gives them a much larger appearance than they are really entitled to.

We have little reliable information regarding the habits of the species. The miners of the Snowy Range, in Colorado, declare that they breed near the top of the range in June, and that their nests are constructed of leaves and grasses, and placed on the ground among the bushes on the hillsides, or in some cavity among the loose rocks. They are very scantily and loosely built, being but a mere hollow, lined with soft, dry and withered grass, with perhaps a few feathers from the maternal breast. The eggs are said to vary from twelve to fourteen in number, and are of a light bluish brown, and marked and shaded with a darker shade of brown. Mr. I. A. Allen, of Cambridge, is in possession of an egg said to be of this species, and which was found on Mount Lincoln, Colorado, by Mr. Arthur Meade, which is described differently, being as follows:

"Its ground is a deep ochraceous cream color, marked with small spots of deep chestnut. These are pretty uniformly distributed over the surface. Except in size, it bears a close resemblance to the eggs of the European *Tetrao urogallus*, or capercaillie. It is oblong-oval in shape, and measures, as well as its imperfect condition permitted its length to be estimated, about one and eighty one-hundredths inches, by one and one-fifth in breadth."

From the limited information which I can gather from those who have met with this bird, I am inclined to believe it resembles the willow grouse more closely in habits than the more northern species. Mr. Grinnell informs me that when with their young, both males and females show equal courage in their defense, making valiant fight against any enemy that ventures to disturb their domestic happiness, even flying so close as to strike one with their wings in their endeavors to frighten away the intruder. It is highly probably from this that both sexes incubate, and possess the deepest affection for each other. In summer they are very tame, and when approached will run among the rocks and dwarf willows, where they squat close to the ground, remaining motionless in the attempt to screen themselves from observation until the sportsman is fairly upon them, then flushing, they fly in a straight line, furnishing an easy mark, alighting after having gone seventy-five or a hundred yards, usually on some elevated rock or tree branch where they sit craning their necks to see if they are followed. If nothing excites their suspicion they drop down again and begin to feed as usual. During the deep snows they descend the mountains, and are found breeding in the edges of the timber on the hill sides.

AN ALBINO OPOSSUM.—Mr. G. W. V. Farris, of Lebanon, Mo. has presented a white opossum with pink eyes to the St. Louis Zoological Society.

Fish and Fishing.

BY FRED MATHER.

The Generation of Eels.

This subject has been the puzzle of naturalists since the days of Aristotle, and has been called a reproach to scientists on account of the small advance that has been made toward establishing any facts in the life history of this common fish.

In 1873, while writing for the *Live Stock Journal* of Buffalo, now extinct, we answered a correspondent, living on the great lakes, as follows: "You cannot breed eels. History tells of ponds of them kept by the Romans into which captive men were thrown and devoured by enormous eels, but does not say that they bred them. Their generation perplexes the naturalist of to-day as it has those of past ages. The belief now is, that they never breed in fresh water, but go to the sea for that purpose. It would be difficult to confine them, for they will go on land around a fall."

Some consider it a hybrid and incapable of producing its kind. Some believe its parent to be the ling (*Lota*), while others consider the lamprey to be the female, and the common, or silver eel, the male; this is doubtful. The stories of their being produced by fresh water mussels, from hairs, water snakes, or carrion are inventions of the ignorant. It is certain that, though caught every day in the year in fresh water, no signs of spawn or young are ever found in them. The young eels are seen by the million swimming up and along the shores of the Hudson near the latter part of May. The eel-pout (*Lota lacustris*) which you mention is not found in all places where the eel is." This was severely criticised by a writer in the *Rochester Union*, who asserted that they were viviparous, but failed to respond to a call for evidence. Edward Jesse in his "Gleanings of Natural History" gives Yarrell as authority for saying that they are unisexual like other fish, passing over the fact that among other fish there are some that are bisexual or true hermaphrodites, and as the unisexual rule has several exceptions such a general statement amounts to nothing more than a confession of ignorance which the author endeavors to hide.

After this came two Italian anatomists, Crivelli and Maggi, who published to the world that their investigations had proved the fact that eels were bisexual, each individual possessing both spawn and milt. This was accepted for a while, until in 1875, Dr. Syrski published a memoir in Trieste, in which he dissents altogether from the aforementioned physiologists. He asserts that the so-called testes and spermatozoa described by them are only fatty bodies, and the unisexuality of eels is truth after all. He says that the males are smaller than the females, and Crivelli and Maggi had only the larger females, which they mistook for hermaphrodites.

In the last report of the United States commissioner on fish and fisheries, the paper of M. Syrski is given entire with plates of the male and female organs *in situ*. The testes in the smaller male, according to this authority, are long slender bodies—"not ribbon-shaped like the ovaries,—but represent two longitudinal rows, each with about fifty lobules."

The spermatic organs can be distinguished at the first glance from the ovaries of the adult eels and those of young eels—not only by their lobular form, but also by their shining, glassy appearance; by the surface of the individual lobes, which is smooth and without leaflets, and by the much greater density of the tissue, so that with a pair of pincers one can take off a large portion of the organ, which could not possibly be done with a more developed ovary, whose tissue is as tender as a cobweb, and is composed of small vessels formed of a thin membrane and filled with eggs and fat. The fibrous tissue of the spermatic organs is composed of vascular compartments with thicker partitions, inclosing, according to the development of the organ, granular globules." It is evident that no spermatozoa were found, or the fact would be stated, and this is just the point on which investigation is demanded, and until they are found the question is still open. Until within a few months American naturalists have done nothing in this direction. Professor Baird stated before the American Fish Cultural Association last month, that he had received at the Smithsonian six female eels containing ova, but no males. They were caught at Wood's Hole, Mass. As it now

stands, all that is positively known on this subject is, that eels are catadromous, viz.: go from fresh to salt water to breed, or the reverse of anadromous. Some eels remain many years in fresh water without an apparent desire to breed.

There is a migration of breeders in the Fall to salt water; the young are first seen in May running up rivers in almost endless succession, keeping near shore and branching off into creeks.

The so-called salt and fresh water eels are one species, but assume various forms; some of them that do not go to salt water grow very large. They are oviparous (egg hatched after leaving the body), or ovo-viviparous (egg hatched within the body). From appearance of ovaries and ducts the former is believed, as they resemble those of egg-laying fishes.

As far as we are aware the investigations have been made on eels from salt water. How, if the female only goes there, leaving her mate to bed in the mud of the mill ponds? In that case impregnation would take place before migration, and long before the egg was mature, and so, contrary to the habit of fishes, and approaching the manner of reptiles; but in dealing with such an occult subject no stone should be left unturned. In case this hypothesis was considered worth looking up, it would of course have to be done before the migration in September or October.

It is not known if the eel breeds more than once in a lifetime, or if many of them return to fresh water after spawning. In short, it is much easier to tell what is known than what is not. We have heard of great "knots" of eels seen in salt water, and of the fishermen spearing them, but never had the good fortune to find them thus engaged.

Acclimatizing Foreign Fishes.

There are no doubt people who would object to the introduction of the millennium, unless they were first chosen as master of ceremonies, which would so alter the case as to cause an entire change of their opinion as to its merits. Some things no doubt are open to objections, as in case any obnoxious or predatory fish or animal was proposed for colonization, which with the exception of the abominable English, or more properly European sparrow, has not been the case. The introduction of desirable species from abroad is on the same footing as transplanting native species from one locality to another. The question is not one of merely American or foreign kinds, but hinges upon the desirability of the particular form that is proposed for introduction.

At the late meeting of the American Fish Cultural Association we were glad to hear Mr. Green say that he had never transported pickerel (*esox*) from one lake or stream to another, nor assisted or advised their being placed in any water not inhabited by them, as he did not consider them worthy of cultivation.

This is the general verdict of fish culturists, and we say that we are glad that he said this, as it places him right upon the record in a matter in which he has been accused. Some lake in the Adirondacks, Long Lake, if memory is not at fault, was stocked with this fish, and it was laid to Mr. Green at the time.

Black bass are objected to by some on account of their destructiveness, and it might in their case be well to consider the matter fully before taking a step not easy to retrieve, and weigh carefully all the supposed benefits and disadvantages.

The case, however, is very different with the carp, which Prof. Baird has introduced, for the fish is not only peaceful, but its food being in a measure vegetation it will hardly interfere with other fish.

It is besides, proposed only to stock those warm ponds, especially in the South, where at present are found small perch, and the usual no-account pond fishes. As the carp will furnish food where none was found before the objection that it is not "first-class" is futile, and may possibly subject the objectors to the suspicion of being the kind of persons named in the beginning of this article. Also in the case of the favorite turbot and sole, we have, as a gentleman recently stated, the greatest number of fine fishes that are found upon any coast. True, but why not have more? Is it not a pleasure to look over the bill of fare and decide whether you will have blue fish, pompano, shad, Spanish mackerel, or sheephead? Verily, it is written that man shall not live by bread alone, and to which we are inclined to add, or porgies either. We have plenty of room and food for the turbot and the sole on the coast, and there are those who from force of inclination superinduced by memories of boiled turbot, or fried sole, in youthful days "at home," will pay any price for them, and declare that there is never a fish like them. To the emigrant from the seaboard to the new interior states what pleasant memories are aroused at the name of shad, and how poorly it is replaced in the whitefish, while to one from the lakes on a visit to the coast the very reverse is the case. Now we have many worthless fishes as well as good ones who might well be replaced with the two delicious Englishes fish named, and as this article was suggested by objections to these fishes which we have recently heard, and there is no ground for saying that they are not "first-class," as in the case of the carp, it must be that the "objectors" are in sympathy with the parties of the first part.

The parties of the F. P. were quite numerous a few years ago, when it was proposed to introduce a new and elegant game fish (not predatory) recently found in Michigan. "It is not as good as trout!" said the objectors, "possibly," said the parties introducing, "but it is better than suckers, or the minnows, will live on their food, and will be a valuable addition to our limited number of fresh water fishes." Fortunately this narrow minded policy produces little impression, and the good work goes on and is likely to go, in spite of feeble objections.

We will venture the assertion that not one valid objection can be made to the introduction of either carp, turbot, grayling, or sole, in waters suitable for their maintenance.

There is another valuable article of food that we will now take the liberty of suggesting to the United States Fish Commission that might easily be brought from England, and that is the great crab, *Cancer pagurus*, growing often a foot wide and weighing, we should judge, three pounds or more.

B. B. Porter on Trout Raising.

At the meeting of the Fish Culturists—beg pardon Bro. Philips, Fish Cultural Association—the secretary read a communication from Mr. B. B. Porter, of Oakland, N. J., on brook trout culture. Mr. Porter said: "Brook trout culture is the mother of fish culture. The salmon of our country are being sent to all parts of the world, and yet fish culture is only in its infancy. In raising trout one must have natural advantages: First, a never-failing spring with a good flow of water; second, uniform temperature of water; third, a good fall, and, fourth, a pool not likely to be washed out by severe storms. The old custom of hatching the spawn on gravel is nearly obsolete. Wire trays, with the wires crossing each other at right angles, one-tenth of an inch apart, are probably the best for hatching trout from salmon spawn, as the fish are thus enabled to fall through as soon as hatched. Another method of raising trout has been successfully tried, by arranging the ponds in the Fall, and selecting pairs of ripe trout at different times, and placing them in a pond where they would spawn. They were then removed and other spawn substituted until there were enough eggs to stock the pond. As far as my experience goes, with 100,000 eggs from 80 to 85 per cent. are

The Horse.

THOROUGHBRED SIRS FOR WORK HORSES.—Chicago, Ill.—Editor *Chicago Field*:—In case of war now there will be a tremendous drain of middle-classed horses to recruit the army, both for England and Austria, and even if mares are unfortunately purchased up, it is bad for the country, but it will prove an eventual harvest for those who are wise enough to hold their stock and breed from it. On the other hand, in case peace is speedily and firmly restored, there is almost bound to be a reaction in trade, and foreign governments—Russia in particular—is certain to draw largely for horses from every quarter. There was a brisker trade between England and Germany for fashionable horses during the three years which followed the great war than there had been for a long time before, and there is this reason to account for it, that the moneyed classes were once more free to enjoy the pleasures of life without any great chances of being disturbed for some years to come. Packs of hounds were established in Germany after the war, studs of hunters sent out, carriage horses of quality in large numbers, and many fresh additions to the racing studs. It must follow in the same groove as regards Russia, for, although they are poor as a people, they are rich as a nobility, and they know how to live and spend money. Anyhow it must be a certain gain to go in for breeding horses of all denominations, from the race horse to the pony, and everything goes further to prove that for nine classes of horses out of ten there is nothing like a thoroughbred sire. The French saw this thirty years ago, and a circumstance in the idea than ever, for the government is giving bigger prices by nearly one-half for middle class stallions in comparison with what they gave a dozen years ago. Irish hunters are better than the majority of the thoroughbred, and the breed of horses in any country is not determined by individual breeding, but by the mass of the public. It is thus that a stamp is fixed. If one or two good thoroughbred horses even are well followed in a neighborhood, it is wonderful the good they do in future generations, but it is the here-and-there breeding which makes the confused mixture, and this is a strong argument against mule breeding. England is bad enough in the matter of odd looking ones about, but nothing like the mule breeding districts of the continent or our country. One could not find horses in any country in England to correspond with the brutes to be found in France and Spain. Such saddle-headed, weak shouldered, or cat hammed animals, are only found where mules are bred, and it is simply on account of the equine family being tainted. It is a certainty, beyond all question, that one sire will effect the produce of a mare for life, or in fact as regards any animal, or even man; therefore it is not reasonable that a host of mares might be spoiled by mule breeding, and future generations entirely affected? This principle will be more considered, for, on the score of convenience, a lot of foals are bred every year by chance stallions, often enough by two-year-olds just before they are castrated, and it is not much thought of if some little wretch of a pony stallion has his services called into requisition. Now, supposing the conviction became more widely spread, that either a bit of bad judgment or a mishap would spoil a mare as a breeder for life, would not breeders think more about good stallions, and thereby breed better stock than they do now? It is almost singular that such thoughts have not entered into the heads of all breeders before; for, in England as regards foxhounds, it has been a rule of over fifty years' standing that if a bitch gets loose, and becomes the consort of a cur, her produce through that connection are not only destroyed, but she is never bred from again. With them too in breeding dogs of all sorts the same rule is strictly adhered to, and in such a way that I believe that if a bitch was sold for breeding, and a discovery of the sort was subsequently made, an action at law would hold good on the ordinary custom of the country. Middling sties might, to a certain extent, injure a mare in comparative degrees. So considering the great and increasing value of horses, it behooves breeders of every description of horse to study the subject with the deepest concern.

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB.—The Maryland Jockey Club announced six-weekstakes to close on the 1st of this month, and the entries were fully as large as was anticipated by the club. Four of the sweepstakes were for the Spring meeting, which commences on May 21 and continues four days, and the two others were the Breckinridge Stake, to be run in the Fall, and the Dixie Stake, of 1879. The Baltimore Cup, for all ages, two miles and a quarter, \$50 subscription, half forfeit, the club to add \$1,000, of which \$200 to the second horse, the third to save his stakes, closed with twelve entries, comprising Tom Ochiltree, Loft-er, Tom Bacon, General Phillips, Parole, Zoo Zoo, Barradeau, Cronse's Joe, Derby, Algerine, Bushwhacker and Ambush. The Vernal sweepstakes for three-year-olds that have not won in their two-year-old form, of \$25 each, play or pay; colts to carry 100 lbs.; fillies and geldings 95 lbs.; the club to add \$500, of which \$100 to the second horse; the distance one mile, closed with twenty-three nominations. The Peyton Handicap Stakes for four-year-olds; \$50 each, half forfeit, and only \$10 if declared out; the club to add \$500 to the first horse and \$100 to the second; weights to be announced April 15, and declarations to be made on or before May 15; one mile heats, has twenty-two nominations, among them best known being Idalia, Oriole, General Phillips, Zoo Zoo, Rife, Bushwhacker, Frederick the Great and Saunnona. The Rancocas Handicap, one mile and an eighth, for all ages; \$50 entrance, half forfeit, and only \$10 if declared out; weights to be announced April 15, and declarations to be made on or before May 15; the club to add \$500, of which \$100 to be given to the second horse, closed with thirty-seven nominations, which is a remarkable number for a new stake. Among the entries are the familiar names of Idalia, Ore Knob, Kenney, Oriole, Rhadamanthus, Zoo Zoo, General Phillips, Perfection, Cuba, Cloverbrook, Viceroy, Rife, Helmsman, Palmetto, Parole, Bushwhacker, Majestic, Inspiration and Ambush. The Breckinridge Stakes (to be run in the Fall) for three-year-olds; \$300 subscription; \$100 forfeit, and only \$25 if declared out on or before October 1; winner of the Dixie Stakes 5 lbs. extra; the club to add \$1,000, of which \$500 to go to the second horse, the third to save his stakes; two miles, closed with forty-three nominations. Among them are Duke of Magenta, Albert, Danicheff, Spartan, Pique, Perfection, Pride of the Village, Pomeroy, Leveller, Himyar, Axiom, Brazil, Jim Bell, Franklin, Bennett and other good ones that may come to the front and be favorites before the Spring meetings are over. The Dixie Stakes to be run during the Fall meeting of 1879, for colts and fillies then three years old; two miles; \$100 subscription, \$50 forfeit; the club to add \$1,500; of which \$1,000 to the first horse, \$500 to the second and the third to save his stakes, closed with seventy-nine nominations, representing all sections of the country and all the fashionable strains of blood.

BY-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association have authorized the publication of their by-laws and charter. After establishing a board of fifteen directors, the by-laws make the following permanent ex-officio members of the Board: The Adjutant General, Inspector General, Commissary General, and Chief of Ordnance, the General Inspector of Rifle Practice, and the commanding officers of the First, Second, Third and Fifth divisions of the New York State National Guard. In contrast with this concession to the New York militia officers, and as if to show that the National Rifle Association is to all intents and purposes a state rather than a national organization, the following named generals of the regular army of the U. S. are placed on the roll of honorary members only of the Board: The General commanding the army of the United States, the several departmental commanders, the superintendent of the West Point Military Academy, the Chief of Ordnance of the Army of the United States, and the adjutant generals of the various states and territories throughout the Union.

DEATH OF WOODFORD CHIEF.—The famous young stallion Woodford Chief, owned by Colonel R. P. Pepper, of Frankfort, Ky., died on the 9th inst., at the stable of his trainers, Macey Brothers, Versailles. Woodford Chief was a bay stallion, bred by Benjamin Williams, of Woodford county, Ky., and he was foaled in the Spring of 1872. His sire was Clark Chief, who was by Mambrino Chief, out of Little Nora, by Bay Messenger. The dam of Woodford Chief was Virginia, by the race horse Billy Towns, son of imported Fyde. The best time of the stallion was a second heat in 2:22½ last Summer.

St. Louis Jockey Club.—In addition to the ten valuable stakes of the St. Louis Jockey Club, that closed in February with 237 entries, they offer six purses, entrance free, for which \$1,950 are appropriated. This makes fifteen events for the four days, to which \$8,050 is given. The prospect for a grand gathering at St. Louis in June is extremely flattering, and it will be one of the best meetings ever held in America. The officers of the above association have in contemplation to give two trotting stakes, for three and four-year-olds at their trotting meeting in July.

Answers to Correspondents.

KENNEL.

F. W. O., Denver.—We would recommend your communicating with the Secretary of the Pioneer Coursing Club, San Francisco, Cal. He would probably give the best satisfaction.

H. M. M., Washington.—Are not the pups bred in this country native, though both sire and dam are imported? Ans.—The rules under which our shows have been held make the first generation from imported stock come under the same head as their parents. The second generation is, however, regarded as native.

INQUIRER, Sterling.—What is the breeding of Mr. Burges' Queen Mab that won at St. Louis? 2. Do you know whether she has been bred lately, and to what dog? Ans.—Queen Mab was bred by Mr. Llewellyn, and is by his Dan out of Nelly, sister to Countess. 2. Queen Mab is now in whelp to Rob Roy, will whelp early in April.

T. W., Tarrytown.—I have a fine well-grown bitch, nearly thirteen months old. I do not want to keep a bitch and think of breeding her as she is coming in season. Do you consider her too young, and what dog would you advise me to use? Ans.—Your bitch is too young. We cannot discriminate in favor of any of the dogs advertised in our columns.

C. B. K., Jersey City.—What do you consider the true origin of the dog kind, and do you think that all the present breeds sprang from one stock? Ans.—The origin of the dog is a question upon which authorities differ; also the origin of different breeds. Some breeds are, however, doubtless the production of crosses between two or more varieties.

M. N. E., Charlotte.—My dog is suffering from canker of the ear in bad form. He has considerable discharge, the ear is hot and inflamed, and there are raw places where he has dug with his claws. Can you give me a remedy? I have tried lead wash without effect. Ans.—The best treatment we know of is to syringe the ear three times a day, and pour into it about a teaspoonful of carbolic acid solution, which you can get at any drug store. Do not feed any meat till the ear is well.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Please advise me at what age it is best to spay a bitch, and after what age it is unsafe? Ans.—Spaying of bitches is a violation of nature, so the younger it is done the better, as it produces less shock to the system, and the changed condition of things sooner becomes second nature; from three to six months we think is the proper time, though any time before the first heat will do; after that age and after having bred it is not particularly dangerous in skillful hands, but there is a tendency to obesity.

FISH.

TAXIDERMIST.—The cast shells of crabs or lobsters are better for specimens, if they can be obtained, than the entire animal. We have none at present. The horseshoe crab can be shipped to you alive; they live from two to three weeks out of water.

S. E.—How can I rig a reel on a common cane? Ans.—With a sliding ring as usual, or split the cane and insert a wooden butt, winding it as is done with rods of split bamboo; some reels have a ring and are screwed up tight on the rod, but we prefer the other way. Whip on the rings and tip with silk and varnish with shellac.

GRAYLING.—Wading boots are useless on the Au Sable, as the pools are too deep. The brush is too thick to fish from the shore, and boat fishing is the only way that good sport can be assured. Telegraph to the hotel at Crawford if boats can be had; if not, buy one in Bay City and take it by rail. Go in July, August or September—not later. They are through spawning in May, but not in best condition. Will be pleased to receive notes of the trip.

LONG ISLAND.—1. What is the device called "gig and jack" for taking fish? 2. Is it a sportsmanlike method? 3. Where can I find the best mascalunge fishing, and at what time? Ans.—1. "Gig" is only another term for spear, and is generally used on the Mississippi and its tributaries, while a "jack" is a torch, or a cage of iron strips to contain a fire, usually in form of a bowl swung in a ring supported by a staff, to allow it to keep upright when the latter is inclined, so as to drop the ashes and fire overboard; the loose bark from shell bark hickory is best for light. 2. It requires some skill to gig a fish, as the latter is not in the place where it seems; there is no objection to it for some fish, but we would say no for trout, grayling, salmon, bass, etc. 3. Probably on the St. Lawrence, among the Thousand Islands, during the Summer months.

REASON.—In "The Sea," by Michlet, page 207, I read: "The gigantic poule, who should enlance the smallest of the crab family, would do so at the risk of losing his antennae, and the greediest of fish would not venture to swallow so hard a morsel." 1. Are the arms of the great crabs so easily bitten off by a little crab? 2. Is the crab of Europe the same as ours? 3. Is not the authority mistaken about fish not eating crabs? Ans.—1. No; on the contrary the principal food of the octopus, which is never large, is crabs. 2. The crabs of America are distinct from the species of Europe; one of the latter is very large, sometimes a foot across. 3. The "authority" is no authority at all; some fish live mostly on crabs. Michlet, Victor Hugo and Jules Verne do much harm in mixing in an occasional fact concerning natural history in their works of exaggeration. They cannot be naturalists, or they would despise exaggeration in any form.

B.—Salmon, although passing the greater portion of their lives in salt water, do not seem to be capable of living in it until at least nine months or more old. The density of sea water is probably too much for their gills. It is doubtful if the salt water was added gradually, taking two weeks or more to change to the density of the sea, or even of shore water, if they would survive. This, however, is only a surmise, as we have not tried it. The last time that we killed any salmon with salt water was to exhibit its effects to Maj. T. B. Ferguson, of the Maryland Fish Commission, when half a dozen fish, some four months old, were put directly into sea water, when they soon showed signs of suffering from asphyxia, and in half an hour were mostly on their backs breathing heavily. One died in about an hour, when the resuscitation occupying a longer time than the drowning. An aquarium, where such questions could be solved, would be a great desideratum, but unfortunately the one started a year and a half ago, after a course of popular shows is now contemplating the erection of a "variety" stage. *Sic transit gloria aquarii.*

TRAP SHOOTING.

S. L., Des Moines.—I want the name of some firm to make us a cup badge or trophy for our state shoot. Ans.—C. D. Peacock, 93 State street, Chicago, has done us some very good work.

S. A. A., Sheldon, Ill.—Please inform me where I can buy a single-barrel breach-loader, ten-gauge, thirty-five inch barrel, ten and a half pounds weight. Ans.—We don't know of any firm making so heavy a single-barrel gun. You can get a good one made to order in this city.

H. O. T., Leland.—1. Could Dittmar powder be used in a Parker thirty-inch, ten-gauge, nine-lbs., six-ounce gun? 2. Do you think chilled shot better than soft? Ans.—1. We wouldn't like to try the experiment? 3. All Hazard and no Dittmar. 3. The subject is being investigated in our columns. There is room for more experiments.

H. L., La Crosse, Wis.—(1). Where can I buy one of Huber & Merwin's champion ball traps, and at what prices. (2). Also where can I get glass balls. (3). If possible, the feather filled balls. Ans.—(1). We don't know, unless it is of the makers. Our only means of knowing the whereabouts of such goods is through our advertising columns. (2). Several firms advertise the sale of glass balls; it would be inadvisable to make distinctions, their cards in our advertising columns speak for themselves. (3). Headquarters Bohemian Glass Works, 214 Pearl St., New York.

W. C., Muskegon, Mich.—A. stands to the score, shoots at the ball in the air, pieces of glass are seen to fly from ball when shot at; upon examination of ball by the judge he finds it is the nozzle or neck of ball that was shot off; does it score a lost or hit ball for A. (2). C. takes the stand, shoots at the ball while in the air, nothing is seen to fly from ball when shot at; upon examination the judge finds the ball fly from ball when shot at; what he considered a shot mark on the glass, but well cracked, and what he considered a shot mark on the glass, but there was no hole through the glass; does it score a hit or miss for C. Ans.—Hit ball for A. (2). Lost ball for C. The ball must be broken in the air.

E. F. E., Muskegon, Mich.—Glass ball shooting, Bonardus rules. (1). Has the shooter a right to raise his gun to his shoulder the instant he says "pull," or must he wait until the trap is sprung and ball "on the wing," same as in pigeon shooting? (2). Referee calls "miss," but upon examining the ball a small hole is found evidently made by the pellet of shot. Is ball lost? (3). If a small piece be knocked off the neck of ball by shot while it is in air, does it score in favor of shooter, although the body of ball remains solid; or is it intended by Mr. Bonardus that the body of balls must be broken? (4). Should the referee change his decision after calling "miss," upon finding a piece out of ball, as its striking the ground or other broken glass might have knocked it out? Ans.—(1). He can raise the gun when he calls "pull." (2). It is a broken ball. (3). It does. (4). No; the ball must be broken in the air, and the referee must be so satisfied.

RIFLE.

A. N. H., Idaho City.—Have sent you by mail a pamphlet which will post you on all the matters you write about. You will find the targets on page 54, and rules as a guide on page 52.

ENQUIRER, Chicago.—I see by your issue of March 9, that Freeman and Chenoweth tie on the eighth contest for the CHICAGO FIELD Badge. Is this according to rule? Ans.—Not according to Creedmoor (N. R. A.) rules, which are generally accepted as governing most rifle practice. Paragraph 6, of section X, on "ties," reads, "If still a tie, by inverse order of shots, counting singly from the last to the first;" thus counting backwards, Freeman's fifth shot is better than Chenoweth's.

Natural History.

The Game of America.

BY ARCHER.

Author of "Game of Arctic Lands," "Game of Michigan," "Canine Therapeutics and Pathology," "Diseases of Dogs in Sportsman's Gazetteer," "Lake Superior Reminiscences."

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LETTER No. VI.—THE GROUSE.

THE ROCK PTARMIGAN.—(*Lagopus rupestris*, Leach).

This is the rock grouse of Pennant and *Lagopus americanus* of Audubon, and has been by many writers confounded with the European ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*). It is not at all unlikely, however, that the latter species also visit the "Barren Grounds" of America, as it is a common inhabitant of Iceland and Greenland. The two species differ but little in Summer and Autumnal plumage only; and even then they are to be distinguished only by the uniformly black feathers on the breast in the former, and bluish cast noticeable in the latter season. The *Lagopus mutus* has more of a gray spotted plumage. Professor Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, declares that, in Winter plumage, those of both species which he examined are absolutely identical in size, proportion and color.

The differences between the American rock ptarmigan and the willow grouse, are to be found in the smaller size of the former, and its more slender and elongated bill. The black stripe through the eye of the male rock ptarmigan is not found in either sex of the willow grouse.

The rock ptarmigan has the bill from the nasal groove considerably longer than the greatest depth of both mandibles taken together. The gony is about equal in width to the lower mandible below. The first quill is intermediate in length between the sixth and seventh; claws very large and broad, equal to the culmen; tail seven and one-half inches in length, or two-thirds the wing, consisting of thirteen black feathers with four middle white ones.

The male bird in Winter is pure immaculate, with the exception of the fourteen tail feathers, which are black throughout the year, and narrowly tipped with white, and a black line through and behind the eye. The shafts of the larger primaries are brown externally, except along the edges.

In Summer the plumage of the back is black, with narrow transverse bars of yellowish brown, tipped with white, the brown bars being largest on the basal half. The terminal ones are usually interrupted towards the shaft, and the last of all, sometimes continuous, and separated from the white tip by black. Much the greater exposed portions of the feathers are black. Beneath, and to some extent on the head, the brownish bars are lighter and much broader, imparting a yellowish tint. The chin is whitish, spotted with black. The entire wing, with the exception of the middle coverts and the tertials are white, as is also the middle space of the belly. The outer web of the external tail feather is white.

Prof. Baird remarks that specimens from the northwest coast of Alaska had the feathers of a chestnut color, mottled black, and with little or no white edging.

The female differs little, if any, from the male in Winter plumage, except that the black stripe through the eye is wanting. In Summer she has the wings white, with the exception of the upper coverts; the legs also are of the same color. The tail, with the exception of the four central feathers, is black, narrowly tipped with white. The balance of the plumage is of a light ochraceous buff, some of the feathers being tipped with white, and all with broad transverse bars of black, this latter color prevailing extensively on the dorsal region. On the lower surface, the buff bars exceed the black ones in width.

The male is about fourteen and one-half inches in length, with a spread of wing of two feet; length of wing seven and three-fourths inches. Irides, yellowish brown.

The rock grouse, or ptarmigan, is emphatically a bird of the barrens, being most abundant along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, the extreme northwestern portion of the Peninsula of Alaska, and the sterile wastes on either side of Fox Channel and Hudson's Strait, between Hudson's Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It is seldom seen in either the York or Severn districts, except during those seasons whose severity is such as to cause the willow ptarmigans to migrate more to the southward. Pliny applied the term *lagopi*, or harefooted, to the ptarmigans, because of the dense feathering on the legs, reaching to the very claws, like the fur on the foot of the hare; the nails too, are very long, broad, and hollow. The first circumstance guards them from the rigor of the Winter, and the latter enables them to form a lodge underneath the snow, where they often lie huddled together to protect them from the cold. They are found mostly on the high ground, or summits of the hills, living amidst the moss-covered rocks, and perching on the gray stones, the general color of the strata in the high northern regions. According to Captain Sabine, they abound in Melville Island in the Summer, where they arrive in their snowy white Winter dress about the middle of May. By the first of June, the females begin to assume their colored plumage, which is completed by the end of the first or second week; while the change in the males had but just commenced. Some of the latter may be found still wearing their Winter dress as late as the middle of the month. They nest in a similar manner to their more Southern congeners, the willow ptarmigans, building on the ground, and placing the materials in a natural or artificial depression, and lined with hay, without leaves, and a few feathers, all being thrown together in rather a loose and illy arranged manner. This is usually placed on the open barren or plain, frequently near the banks of some small stream. They are earlier in breeding than other species of ptarmigans, for young broods of goodly size are commonly seen in the last week of June, or first in July. The eggs vary in number from five to twelve, from six to eight being the ordinary number. The Indian tribes say the males, in the early part of the love season, are given to inordinate venery, often to an unnatural degree; even pursuing the female to her nest, and breaking her eggs rather than not indulge his inclination; this undoubtedly accounts for the limited number of eggs usually found in the nests.

The female while incubating sits very close, and rather than forsake her eggs, will oftentimes allow herself to be taken by the hand. When a nest is approached, she crouches as closely as possible, evidently in the hope of escaping detection; and the ruse is usually successful, unless her bright and restless eyes are observed, so exactly do the sober colors of her Summer plumage harmonize and assimilate with the sombre hues of the landscape.

In some respects, these ptarmigans are very silly birds, in others, the most acute of the grouse family. They are so tame as to bear driving like poultry; and if provoked to rise, take very short flights, making a great circuit like pigeons. In cunning and instinct, particularly in defense of their broods, and escaping from their four-footed and winged foes, they are inferior to no bird that flies. Perhaps, as they live in the open in plain

sight of their enemies, they have more occasion to put these little arts in practice, and learn by habit the means of evasion and safety. Whenever therefore, they perceive the great white gyrfalcon, they at once seek safety beside some mossy knoll, or lichen covered rock, where they squat immovably, appearing as part of the substance chosen as shelter. If a fox, dog, or other formidable animal approaches their nest, the female uses every means to draw him away. She keeps just before him, pretends to be incapable of flying, just hops up, and then falls down before him, but never goes off so far as to discourage her pursuer. At length, when she has drawn him away from her secret treasure, she at once takes wing, and fairly leaves him to gaze after her in despair. After the danger is over and the enemy withdrawn, she calls her young, who assemble at once at her cry, and follow wherever she leads them. The young broods follow the parent during the whole summer. In winter, old and young assemble in flocks of forty or fifty for their southern migration, and all are then exceedingly shy and wild.

The islands of the Arctic Ocean are favorite breeding places, and in summer they are the most abundant land birds found on the shores of this frigid sea. The general opinion of the Anglo-Americans in the employ of the Hudson Bay Fur Company is that the species is never found west of Swan River, and one gentleman assured me that the ptarmigan of the bleak regions of Northern Alaska is not the rock grouse, but the European variety, *Lagopus mutus*, supplementing the information with the statement that they migrate each season to and from Kamtschatka. This would hardly seem probable, as neither the rock ptarmigan, nor its Old World congener, are birds of long flights. Mr. McFarlane informs me that in the year 1862, during a journey to Franklin Bay, he met these grouse west of Swan River for the first time. Every season, almost immediately after leaving the wooded belt that fringed the shores of the river, he began to meet with these birds, which were found as far as, and all along the Arctic coast. Although constantly feeding in large numbers along the barrens, it is always difficult to find their nests. The eggs, closely resemble those of the willow grouse, but are somewhat smaller size, marked by a ground of deep reddish-cream color, nearly covered by large blotches of a reddish chestnut, giving a beautiful variegated effect to the whole.

The ptarmigan of the Romanoff Mountains, northwest of Fort Yukon, is asserted to be the *Lagopus rupestris* by Mr. Dall, but he was unable to speak with any degree of accuracy regarding its further western or southern range. It is certainly an inhabitant of the region in the neighborhood of Yukon House. Upon the mainland it is found most abundantly perhaps between Horton River and Franklin Bay, and may be observed standing singly and feeding on the ground, or an occasional pair will be seen, but never any number in company, except just prior to their semi-annual migrations. Their extreme southern limit seems to be the fifty-third parallel of latitude in the interior; but on the coast of Hudson Bay they frequently are met with as low down as the fifty-eighth degree; and in very severe winters a degree further south. At such times specimens reach the northern shore of Newfoundland, where it is known as the mountain partridge. It is by no means common, however.

In general manners and mode of living there is great similarity between the rock and willow ptarmigan, but the *rupestris* does not retire as far into the wooded regions as the latter in winter. At this season it is more inclined to haunt the open forests than the dense thickets. The open woods that border the streams and lakes, especially those under the sixty-fifth parallel, are favorite localities; still the bulk of the species remain in the "Barren Grounds." Mosses, lichens, insects, berries, buds, etc., constitute their food. In winter lichens and mosses, for which they dig beneath the snow, are almost their only resource, and then they must of necessity be inferior for the table; but in summer, when fattened on the numerous insect pests which swarm in myriads in high latitudes at this season, and on the black crowberry (*Empetrium nigrum*), which grows in abundance in the sterile wastes, they furnish a very palatable and even luxurious dish. The males, particularly young cocks, are very pugnacious, and indulge in severe combats at times; but whether the species is monogamous or polygamous I am unable to say; probably the former, from the fact of more than two birds seldom ever being seen together during the breeding season.

THE WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN.—*Lagopus leucurus*, Rich'd.

Bill rather slender, the length from the nasal groove being considerably greater than the height of both mandibles together. The gonys is somewhat longer than the width of the lower mandibles at the end of the lateral feathers. The lower mandible possesses a prominent ridge on the sides below. Tail rather short, measuring less than four inches—scarcely more than half the length of the wings, which are full seven inches. The first quill is intermediate between the sixth and seventh. The superciliary membrane, like all the genus, is red. Irides hazel.

In winter the white-tailed ptarmigan is of a pure white color, with a slight roseate hue, which extends even to the tail feathers. The shafts of the larger primaries are brown.

In summer, the wings, tail, abdomen, anal region and legs are of immaculate snowy white, while the rest of the plumage has a ground color of grayish-white, which on the head becomes ashy-buff; on other portions of the body, it is finely and rather sparsely sprinkled with black, which inclines to form ragged transverse bars anteriorly and on the sides.

Length, about thirteen inches, with an alar extent of twenty-three. Average weight, about nineteen ounces.

We owe the discovery of this species to Mr. Drummond, a gentleman for a time connected with the Hudson's Bay Company, and its first description was given by William Swainson, (not John Swainson, the editor of the *Swedish Pioneer*, as one author would have it,) in *Fauna Boreali Americana*. It is entirely alpine in habit seemingly, being found only among the exalted peaks of the great mountain range that bisects the North American continent. It is not only the smallest of American ptarmigans, but it is the only one that can, with propriety, be considered as an inhabitant of the United States, it being found as far south as Colorado, where it is known to the miners and hunters under the names of white and mountain quail. They are easily distinguished from other ptarmigans by the tail, which is white at all seasons. In summer the toes are feathered for only half their length, but with the approach of winter the hair-like feathers extend to the very claws. It is said that some individuals have the claws notched on the sides.

Though the smallest of our grouse, the white-tailed ptarmigan is inferior to none in beauty. Throughout its entire range, from Cochetope Pass, in latitude thirty-nine north, through British America to Alaska, it exists nowhere in numbers sufficient to tempt the sportsman to its pursuit, and its discovery may be considered rather as the result of accident than otherwise, for many fur traders who have passed their lives almost in the Rocky Mountain chain, have yet to meet with their first specimen. Like other ptarmigans, the white-tailed species goes through an almost continual moult, which lasts throughout the summer and autumn months, which causes such variation of plumage that it is almost impossible to find two individuals colored alike; and during this season, from May to September, their plumage is very scant and ragged. In winter, the plumage is very heavy

and compact, which gives them a much larger appearance than they are really entitled to.

We have little reliable information regarding the habits of the species. The miners of the Snowy Range, in Colorado, declare that they breed near the top of the range in June, and that their nests are constructed of leaves and grasses, and placed on the ground among the bushes on the hillsides, or in some cavity among the loose rocks. They are very scantily and loosely built, being but a mere hollow, lined with soft, dry and withered grass, with perhaps a few feathers from the maternal breast. The eggs are said to vary from twelve to fourteen in number, and are of a light bluish brown, and marked and shaded with a darker shade of brown. Mr. I. A. Allen, of Cambridge, is in possession of an egg said to be of this species, and which was found on Mount Lincoln, Colorado, by Mr. Arthur Meade, which is described differently, being as follows:

"Its ground is a deep ochraceous cream color, marked with small spots of deep chestnut. These are pretty uniformly distributed over the surface. Except in size, it bears a close resemblance to the eggs of the European *Tetrao urogallus*, or capercaillie. It is oblong-oval in shape, and measures, as well as its imperfect condition permitted its length to be estimated, about one and eighty one-hundredths inches, by one and one-fifth in breadth."

From the limited information which I can gather from those who have met with this bird, I am inclined to believe it resembles the willow grouse more closely in habits than the more northern species. Mr. Grinnell informs me that when with their young, both males and females show equal courage in their defense, making valiant fight against any enemy that ventures to disturb their domestic happiness, even flying so close as to strike one with their wings in their endeavors to frighten away the intruder. It is highly probable from this that both sexes incubate, and possess the deepest affection for each other. In summer they are very tame, and when approached will run among the rocks and dwarf willows, where they squat close to the ground, remaining motionless in the attempt to screen themselves from observation until the sportsman is fairly upon them, then flushing, they fly in a straight line, furnishing an easy mark, alighting after having gone seventy-five or a hundred yards, usually on some elevated rock or tree branch where they sit craning their necks to see if they are followed. If nothing excites their suspicion they drop down again and begin to feed as usual. During the deep snows they descend the mountains, and are found breeding in the edges of the timber on the hill sides.

AN ALBINO OPOSSUM.—Mr. G. W. V. Farris, of Lebanon, Mo., has presented a white opossum with pink eyes to the St. Louis Zoological Society.

Fish and Fishing.

BY FRED MATHER.

The Generation of Eels.

This subject has been the puzzle of naturalists since the days of Aristotle, and has been called a reproach to scientists on account of the small advance that has been made toward establishing any facts in the life history of this common fish.

In 1873, while writing for the *Live Stock Journal* of Buffalo, now extinct, we answered a correspondent, living on the great lakes, as follows: "You cannot breed eels. History tells of ponds of them kept by the Romans into which captive men were thrown and devoured by enormous eels, but does not say that they bred them. Their generation perplexes the naturalist of to-day as it has those of past ages. The belief now is, that they never breed in fresh water, but go to the sea for that purpose. It would be difficult to confine them, for they will go on land around a fall.

Some consider it a hybrid and incapable of producing its kind. Some believe its parent to be the ling (*Lota*), while others consider the lamprey to be the female, and the common, or silver eel, the male; this is doubtful. The stories of their being produced by fresh water mussels, from hairs, water snakes, or carrion are inventions of the ignorant. It is certain that, though caught every day in the year in fresh water, no signs of spawn or young are ever found in them. The young eels are seen by the million swimming up and along the shores of the Hudson near the latter part of May. The eel-pout (*Lota lacustris*) which you mention is not found in all places where the eel is." This was severely criticised by a writer in the *Rochester Union*, who asserted that they were viviparous, but failed to respond to a call for evidence. Edward Jesse in his "Gleanings of Natural History" gives Yarell as authority for saying that they are unisexual like other fish, passing over the fact that among other fish there are some that are bisexual or true hermaphrodites, and as the unisexual rule has several exceptions such a general statement amounts to nothing more than a confession of ignorance which the author endeavors to hide.

After this came two Italian anatomists, Crivelli and Maggi, who published to the world that their investigations had proved the fact that eels were bisexual, each individual possessing both spawn and milt. This was accepted for a while, until in 1875, Dr. Syrski published a memoir in Trieste, in which he dissents altogether from the aforementioned physiologists. He asserts that the so-called testes and spermatozoa described by them are only fatty bodies, and the unisexuality of eels is truth after all. He says that the males are smaller than the females, and Crivelli and Maggi had only the larger females, which they mistook for hermaphrodites.

In the last report of the United States commissioner on fish and fisheries, the paper of M. Syrski is given entire with plates of the male and female organs *in situ*. The testes in the smaller male, according to this authority, are long slender bodies—"not ribbon-shaped like the ovaries,—but represent two longitudinal rows, each with about fifty lobules."

The spermatic organs can be distinguished at the first glance from the ovaries of the adult eels and those of young eels—not only by their lobular form, but also by their shining, glassy appearance; by the surface of the individual lobes, which is smooth and without leaflets, and by the much greater density of the tissue, so that with a pair of pincers one can take off a large portion of the organ, which could not possibly be done with a more developed ovary, whose tissue is as tender as a cobweb, and is composed of small vessels formed of a thin membrane and filled with eggs and fat. The fibrous tissue of the spermatic organs is composed of vascular compartments with thicker partitions, inclosing, according to the development of the organ, granular globules. It is evident that no spermatozoa were found, or the fact would be stated, and this is just the point on which investigation is demanded, and until they are found the question is still open. Until within a few months American naturalists have done nothing in this direction. Professor Baird stated before the American Fish Cultural Association last month, that he had received at the Smithsonian six female eels containing ova, but no males. They were caught at Wood's Hole, Mass. As it now

stands, all that is positively known on this subject is, that eels are catadromous, viz.: go from fresh to salt water to breed, or the reverse of anadromous. Some eels remain many years in fresh water without an apparent desire to breed.

There is a migration of breeders in the Fall to salt water; the young are first seen in May running up rivers in almost endless succession, keeping near shore and branching off into creeks.

The so-called salt and fresh water eels are one species, but assume various forms; some of them that do not go to salt water grow very large. They are oviparous (egg hatched after leaving the body), or ovo-viviparous (egg hatched within the body). From appearance of ovaries and ducts the former is believed, as they resemble those of egg-laying fishes.

As far as we are aware the investigations have been made on eels from salt water. How, if the female only goes there, leaving her mate to bed in the mud of the mill ponds? In that case impregnation would take place before migration, and long before the egg was mature, and so, contrary to the habit of fishes, and approaching the manner of reptiles; but in dealing with such an occult subject no stone should be left unturned. In case this hypothesis was considered worth looking up, it would of course have to be done before the migration in September or October.

It is not known if the eel breeds more than once in a lifetime, or if many of them return to fresh water after spawning. In short, it is much easier to tell what is known than what is not. We have heard of great "knots" of eels seen in salt water, and of the fishermen spearing them, but never had the good fortune to find them thus engaged.

Acclimatizing Foreign Fishes.

There are no doubt people who would object to the introduction of the millennium, unless they were first chosen as master of ceremonies, which would so alter the case as to cause an entire change of their opinion as to its merits. Some things no doubt are open to objections, as in case any obnoxious or predatory fish or animal was proposed for colonization, which with the exception of the abominable English, or more properly European sparrow, has not been the case. The introduction of desirable species from abroad is on the same footing as transplanting native species from one locality to another. The question is not one of merely American or foreign kinds, but hinges upon the desirability of the particular form that is proposed for introduction.

At the late meeting of the American Fish Cultural Association we were glad to hear Mr. Green say that he had never transported pickerel (*esox*) from one lake or stream to another, nor assisted or advised their being placed in any water not inhabited by them, as he did not consider them worthy of cultivation.

This is the general verdict of fish culturists, and we say that we are glad that he said this, as it places him right upon the record in a matter in which he has been accused. Some lake in the Adirondacks, Long Lake, if memory is not at fault, was stocked with this fish, and it was laid to Mr. Green at the time.

Black bass are objected to by some on account of their destructiveness, and it might in their case be well to consider the matter fully before taking a step not easy to retrieve, and weigh carefully all the supposed benefits and disadvantages.

The case, however, is very different with the carp, which Prof. Baird has introduced, for the fish is not only peaceful, but its food being in a measure vegetation it will hardly interfere with other fish.

It is besides, proposed only to stock those warm ponds, especially in the South, where at present are found small perch, and the usual no-account pond fishes. As the carp will furnish food where none was found before the objection that it is not "first-class" is futile, and may possibly subject the objectors to the suspicion of being the kind of persons named in the beginning of this article. Also in the case of the favorite turbot and sole, we have, as a gentleman recently stated, the greatest number of fine fishes that are found upon any coast. True, but why not have more? Is it not a pleasure to look over the bill of fare and decide whether you will have blue fish, pompano, shad, Spanish mackerel, or sheephead? Verily, it is written that man shall not live by bread alone, and to which we are inclined to add, or porgies either. We have plenty of room and food for the turbot and the sole on the coast, and there are those who from force of inclination superinduced by memories of boiled turbot, or fried sole, in youthful days "at home," will pay any price for them, and declare that there is never a fish like them. To the emigrant from the seaboard to the new interior states what pleasant memories are aroused at the name of shad, and how poorly it is replaced in the whitefish, while to one from the lakes on a visit to the coast the very reverse is the case. Now we have many worthless fishes as well as good ones who might well be replaced with the two delicious Englishes fish named, and as this article was suggested by objections to these fishes which we have recently heard, and there is no ground for saying that they are not "first-class," as in the case of the carp, it must be that the "objectors" are in sympathy with the parties of the first part.

The parties of the F. P. were quite numerous a few years ago, when it was proposed to introduce a new and elegant game fish (not predatory) recently found in Michigan. "It is not as good as trout!" said the objectors, "possibly," said the parties introducing, "but it is better than suckers, or the minnows, will live on their food, and will be a valuable addition to our limited number of fresh water fishes." Fortunately this narrow minded policy produces little impression, and the good work goes on and is likely to go, in spite of feeble objections.

We will venture the assertion that not one valid objection can be made to the introduction of either carp, turbot, grayling, or sole, in waters suitable for their maintenance.

There is another valuable article of food that we will now take the liberty of suggesting to the United States Fish Commission that might easily be brought from England, and that is the great crab, *Cancer pagurus*, growing often a foot wide and weighing, we should judge, three pounds or more.

B. B. Porter on Trout Raising.

At the meeting of the Fish Culturists—beg pardon Bro. Philips, Fish Cultural Association—the secretary read a communication from Mr. B. B. Porter, of Oakland, N. J., on brook trout culture. Mr. Porter said: "Brook trout culture is the mother of fish culture. The salmon of our country are being sent to all parts of the world, and yet fish culture is only in its infancy. In raising trout one must have natural advantages: First, a never-failing spring with a good flow of water; second, uniform temperature of water; third, a good fall, and, fourth, a pool not likely to be washed out by severe storms. The old custom of hatching the spawn on gravel is nearly obsolete. Wire trays, with the wires crossing each other at right angles, one-tenth of an inch apart, are probably the best for hatching trout from salmon spawn, as the fish are thus enabled to fall through as soon as hatched. Another method of raising trout has been successfully tried, by arranging the ponds in the Fall, and selecting pairs of ripe trout at different times, and placing them in a pond where they would spawn. They were then removed and other spawn substituted until there were enough eggs to stock the pond. As far as my experience goes, with 100,000 eggs from 80 to 85 per cent. are

impregnated; but of these, about 5 per cent. will not have strength enough to burst the shell. Before the sac is absorbed, about 5 per cent. more will die from swelling of the sac. During the time the fish have been feeding, 20 per cent. more will have died, either from disease or from being eaten by their companions. Now there are 50 per cent. left. After four months, from 10 to 15 per cent. more will have died, and, finally, at the end of the first year, only 25 per cent. of the original 100,000, will have survived. Keep them another year and there will remain from 5,000 to 10,000. Yet fish culture is a success."

This was followed by a discussion on the mortality of trout by Messrs. Green, Anderson and others, all of whom thought that Mr. Porter's losses were excessive, and that 5 per cent. was a small number to raise to two years old, and yet when we read this over carefully it is seen that he says from five to ten per cent. of eggs hatch and reach two years old, and we incline to the opinion that a man starting with 100,000 eggs and keeping them confined until two years old has done very well if he has 10,000 good two year olds. Taking his latter figure, which appeared to be overlooked at the meeting—

Mr. Green said it was like handling money or men; small lots of either could be handled to more advantage as a general thing than large ones, but there were those that could handle great fortunes or armies either, and by implication, trout as well, we presume. He also in his remarks on this subject said: That small streams might be utilized in the culture of fish by draining them and making ponds. There should be no points or sharp angles in the ponds. Brush should be thrown into the ponds for the fish to hide themselves in. These ponds should not be overstocked, any more than a pasture should be overstocked. If overstocked the fish will die. Spawn will not hatch unless the streams feeding the ponds are fed with living springs to carry off the sediment. Mr. Green further remarked that this year he had raised 75 per cent. of 10,000 young trout. Success in fish culture depends upon the cleanliness of the water.

He strongly insisted on not overstocking waters, which point the association did not clearly see, as no one seemed to know of any waters that had been overstocked, and it seemed a very improbable source of danger.

Mr. Howard J. Reeder, commissioner of Pennsylvania, said that all the damage done by overstocking was simply a loss of the excess, the fittest would survive, and no more would live than there was food for. This, however, applied only to small ponds, it being practically impossible to overstock rivers with either shad or salmon.

The black bass question was lightly touched upon; several gentlemen expressed themselves as having no doubt but what they would devour young shad. There has always been a difference of opinion concerning the bass as a profitable fish, but the question was not debated with the ardor of former meetings.

AN OYSTER WAR.—It may be fortunate for New Jersey that it has a Major General for Governor, as one of the periodical oyster wars have sprung up. The decision of a Staten Island magistrate recently sent two alleged invading Jerseymen to the county jail for sixty days save one, and seven Jersey oyster-sloops are awaiting condemnation in the Staten Island prize courts. The offense is taking oysters in the planted beds of Prince's Bay, the alleged property of Staten Islanders.

Recently Prince's Bay has been surveyed by order of the Staten Island authorities across from Seguin's Point to Keyport, N. J., and the middle grounds, where the oysters are planted, are claimed to be half a mile in New York waters. The New Jersey oystermen contend that they are in New Jersey waters. The taxpayers on the island also complain of the action of the Staten Island oystermen, who, they allege, stake off grounds in the bay for their own use, thus depriving them of taking either oysters or clams in their own waters.

A test case of the above arrests is to be made by the Staten Islanders. The Keyport oystermen are also raising funds for the same purpose and will fight the matter of right in the bay to the bitter end.

The New York World says: "We trust this will not involve a severance of our diplomatic relations, but Jersey men are a vindictive race. Only yesterday the New Jersey legislature 'instructed' its senators and requested its representatives to avert the destruction of food fish off the Jersey coast—a measure which is aimed specially at New Yorkers, and might easily be construed as an act of war, if Governor Robinson desires revenge for the arrogant demands of Governor McClellan. As we go to press, however, the Hoboken ferry-boats are still running."

TRANSPORTING ADULT WHITEFISH.—In February, 1877, while at the fishery of the late George Clark, on Grassy Island in the Detroit River, collecting live specimens of all the river fish, we expressed a wish that the whitefish, *Coregonus albus*, could be carried, as it had always been stated to be impossible, the reasons given being their great liability to injury from the ease with which the large scales were removed.

We had never attempted it and were disposed to try, as it was not expensive, and so pondered over the question for a few days before starting.

The whitefish did not appear to be a nervous animal like a shad, which dies from fright if confined in the bag of the seine without being touched, and therefore the question was reduced to one of positive injury.

When the time came to start, the fish were gently driven into the can, or rather the latter was put in the net, filled with water, and the fish cornered into it.

After getting it ashore the temperature was reduced with snow until the water got so cold that the snow would not melt.

More snow was added, until the water was nearly *mush*, which did not freeze in the baggage car, and so they were brought to New York.

The soft snow acted as a cushion to prevent their striking the side of the vessel or each other, and the cold stupefied them and kept them quiet. One of these fish lived until the middle of May, a trifle over three months, when it died from a bruise or bite of some other fish, as the three others had done before.

NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.—For a Country pun, we do think this is fearfully flat-footed:

"Referring to his recent attempt to introduce the English sole into our waters and to naturalize it here, Mr. Mather takes advantage of the occasion to get off a most execratable pun. 'Should that pair of fish,' says he, 'escape the all-devouring jaws of the cod, it can no longer be said that the Americans are a sole-less race.' If Mr. M. cannot get up a better play upon the sole he should abandon punning in *to-to*, for such efforts will certainly *fin-ish* him."

Very much run down at the *eel*, and it is gratifying to learn that the author of the above has *pegged* out. He has *smelt* fishy ever since this *last* attempt. He thought he was giving us a *stingaree* when he mistook the *shad-ow* of a pun for the substance, but he will find it a *bootless* task.

FIRST SHAD IN THE HUDSON.—The advent of the first shad is an event in the city of New York almost as great now as when the old Knickerbockers looked to it as the only source of supply of this justly celebrated fish.

Although New York has had shad at one to two dollars each from Savannah in the month of January, and later from the Carolinas, still they are not "North River" shad. We said that the *avant courier* was eagerly looked for, but not alone by those who have a bone to pick with it, but is used by betting men as the foundation of a wager, taking the date of its arrival, which is variable within certain limits.

This year it is early, having been captured off Weehawken on the 12th of this month. They have been backward of late years, usually not arriving before the 30th or 25th, although formerly they were expected on St. Patrick's day, March 17.

Mr. Blackford received the first one this season, but we did not learn the name of the lucky hotel which secured it. The hotel keepers often bid high for the first one, twenty-five dollars being, we think, the highest price ever paid for this honor. Then follows a grand dinner, and the event is duly heralded in the newspapers. What shadders we are, and what shadders we pursue!

Small Fry.

—The London Field says that there has been great success with the salmon introduced from England, but a failure with those from California, and that the Tasmanians do not esteem the latter. It seems too soon to pronounce upon the success or failure of the California salmon, unless the eggs are meant, and we have no right to interpret "salmon" as meaning either eggs or fry. And it most certainly is premature for the Tasmanians to express an opinion as to their merits before they have given them a fair trial.

—We have just received "A Preliminary Catalogue of the Reptiles, Fishes and Leptocardians of the Bermudas, with descriptions of Four Species of Fishes, believed to be New," by Prof. G. Brown Goode. Prof. Goode is one of the most careful of workers—we can truthfully say hard-working—naturalists, and his former "Catalogue of the Fishes of the Bermudas" contains the most complete description of the fishes of that locality ever published, and is indispensable to the student of marine fauna. This latter work was published by the Smithsonian Institute. We presume that the forthcoming one will be still more valuable, as containing the author's latest researches in those interesting fields.

Kennel.

Kennel Fixtures for 1878.

Bench Shows.

Boston Kennel Club Show, Boston, Mass., March 26, 27, 28 and 29. Dr. E. J. Forster, Secretary.

Baltimore Kennel Club's Show, Baltimore, Md., April 23, 24, 25 and 26. L. R. Cassard, Sec'y.

The Westminster Kennel Club (New York) Bench Show, Gilmore's Garden, May 14, 15, 16 and 17. Dr. W. Seward Webb, Sec'y.

Nebraska State Sportsmen's Association.—Fremont, May 20 and 22. Bench show of dogs.

FOREIGN.

PARIS.—June 1 to July 7. Applications to be made to the Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Commerce.

BIRKENHEAD, ENG.—Sept. 11 and 13. Sec., Mr. A. F. Gardiner.

Field Trials.

Tennessee State Sportsmen's Association Field Trials, Nashville, Dec. 2. H. C. Prichett, Sec'y.

FOREIGN.

HORNSHEATH, LINTON, ENG.—April 30, May 1 and 2. Kennel Club Field Trials, Sec., Mr. G. Lowe.

"The Wherefore of Points."

COMPILED BY ARNOLD BURGESS.

In a very pleasing little work entitled "The Practical Kennel Guide," written by Dr. Gordon Stables, we find one of the plainest expositions of the value of "points" as applied to physical symmetry that we have ever seen, and as there are many persons who, though they may recognize upon general principles the advantages of correct structure, still have very indistinct ideas as to why certain peculiarities are especially desirable, we offer the following compilation as well worthy of consideration:

"The head of the dog is one of the chief characteristics of the breed to which he belongs, and one of the great criterions of quality and purity. Taking into consideration the life-saving duties which the grand St. Bernard and noble Newfoundland are supposed to do and perform, what would the head of either be worth if dignity, staidness, good nature and benevolence did not repose in every lineament thereof? Take again, for example, the greyhound. No one can read the description of that dog's head without being struck by the admirable adaptability of it to the work the animal has to do, with its strong teeth, and its long but steady jaws to grasp the hare. There is no great sagacity shown in the greyhound's head, and neither is it wanted. He has not to do much thinking; he sees his quarry before him, and instinct is almost all that is required to enable him to reach and seize it. But it is different again with the English setter. He is used to work on scent, and to obey, and be properly trained by his master. Hence his face and eye should beam with intelligence. A heavy head in a setter is thus a great fault, for it indicates a want of spirit, and short-headed dogs are never so intelligent as long.

"The eye of the greyhound should be keen and bright, because he hunts by sight alone. The eyes of the fox-terrier should be keen and bright, and black—he has to see almost in the dark. The eyes of the Scotch collie seem made to pierce rocks and see through mountains. The eyes of the Newfoundland ought to be rather small and well set in the head, else his being much in water would induce chronic inflammation; besides, he could not see so well through mist and spray if they were large and protrusive.

"The nose in many breeds of dogs is no less important, and ought to show breadth and development of the nasal sinuses in the fox-hound, retriever, pointer, setter, etc.; and, indeed, in all dogs where scent is an object.

"The ear is large in the spaniel, for the spaniel has work among furze and thorns and brambles, and needs this enormous ear as a protection. The Newfoundland never 'takes the bush,' hence a large heavy ear is not needed—indeed, it is positively objectionable; he wants ear enough to protect the meatus from getting filled with water and deafening him, but no more, because he has to swim high and hold his head well up, and a heavy completely feathered ear would drag it down. Neither do you want too large an ear in the retriever, to be in his way and deafen him. There is much, too, in the setting on of the ear. Who, for example, would like a setter with half pricked ears? It would be a badly bred one. A fox-terrier's ear should just be big enough and lie properly to form a protection to the orifice; but thin in the feather, for he has to listen with his ears as well as watch with the eyes. One other example, the Scotch Collie. His ears seem always at attention; his duties need them so.

The teeth of every breed should be adapted to its work and ought to be level in some, and the under jaw protruding in others, and large in all breeds that have to use them. The Dachshund,

or German badger-hound, never quits the hold of his prey until death relieves him of it. His fangs are recurrent, almost like the teeth of the shark.

"Jaws. No dog should have more of these than he is able to sustain by the contraction of the muscles when angry. Watch a retriever when he means to bite you; how he draws up his lips out of the way of his own teeth. Dogs who are meant for fighting purposes, as the bull-terrier, should not be lippy.

"The shoulders in all dogs who depend upon their strength and power ought to be placed obliquely, as in a well-bred horse. This is well seen in the setter, greyhound and pointer.

"Neck. This should be long in the greyhound and retriever, to give better power in grasping their prey, and in the foxhound that he may be enabled to carry his nose well groundward. It should be lean and muscular in the setter.

"The thighs are long in the setter to give good leverage. They are well developed in the pointer and greyhound to give these dogs strength to gallop.

"The stifles, say of the setter, ought to be well bent; here lies the propelling power.

"Loins. Slack loins in a setter are fatal to powers of lasting.

"Straightness of legs is wanted in all dogs run; indeed in every dog, with the solitary exception of the German badger-hound, straight forelegs, with elbows well let down, give power of spring or bound to a dog.

"The chest is a most important point in all dogs. Take the setter again for example; here you need a deep chest and a moderately wide one, for a narrow-chested dog will not last long. Again in the greyhound the chest must be deep but not wide, for you cannot have a broad or wide chest, to retard the speed of the dog as it cleaves the air, and still you must have room for the lungs somewhere in the chest, hence its depth. The chest of the bull dog is broad and powerful; that of the dachshund broad, and as a gentleman expressed it, 'worn between his feet,' almost on the ground, indeed, because the dog must be as low as possible and still be 'all there.' The chests of the mastiff and St. Bernard are broad, and that of the Newfoundland both broad and deep, and it has another peculiarity—it ought to be much broader at the top, to give it buoyancy and enable the dog to cleave the water well.

"The feet of the greyhounds and pointers should be small, compact and cat-like, with a strongly padded sole. The feet of the pointer, for example, must not turn out to inconvenience running, but in the dachshund the feet turn very much out, and the animal works in the earth like a mole. The feet of the Newfoundland ought to be very large, flat and paddle-like, and the toes turn slightly in to give better power of swimming.

"Feather and coat. I dare say it must strike the merest novice in the fancy at the first mention of the words, that feather and coat must be points of great importance among dogs. For example, take two extreme cases—that of the greyhound and that of the Scotch or mountain collie. How uncomfortably warm a swift greyhound would feel running in a collie's jacket, and how the poor collie would shiver on the hillside if he had no more coat than a greyhound. Again, if a Newfoundland were coated like a mastiff or bulldog, would his constitution stand his paddling in the water for six hours at a spell, as he sometimes does? Take the coat of the Maltese, it ought to be straight, because a curl in it would indicate the cross with the poodle. Just as in the case of the setter, we like to see well feathered legs, testifying to its origin from the spaniel. In the Clumber spaniel you like to see a nice, warm, glossy coat and long feather, enough to protect him from bramble and furze, but neither curly nor cumbersome to impede his progress.

"Color may be considered by some a matter of fancy, but I do not think it by any means, so color makes the purity of certain breeds. I take two examples: the Willoughby pug and the Blenheim spaniel. There ought to be no white in dogs that are meant to be black. A white chest in a Newfoundland or retriever indicates a cross with the Landseer or setter."

The Dalmatian Dog.

BY STONEHENGE, in London Field.

Without doubt, the Dalmatian is a pointer when at home; but in this country he has never been used, so far as I know, except to accompany a carriage, in which capacity he is unrivalled. Our English pointers will follow a dogcart quite as closely, and I have had more than one which would occupy the place generally selected by the Dalmatian, close behind the horse's heels; but then they were accustomed to be taken out in the same dog-cart to a distance from home, for the purpose of hunting their game; and associating the idea of hunting with the presence of the dogcart, they clung closely to it, if not allowed to ride. Now, when I have treated greyhounds exactly in the same way, they have not shown the same tendency, but have lagged behind at a distance of at least 100 yards, although in better condition as to wind and feet than the pointers. This peculiarity serves to show that there is a mental capacity common to both the English pointer and the Dalmatian, and confirms the opinion that the latter is a true pointer, differing only in color from the English breeds of that dog. So long as it was the fashion to crop the ears of the Dalmatian, the above resemblance was not so close in the eyes of the casual observer, and it was usually thought that the bull-terrier was the nearest approach to him in shape; but now that cropping is never practiced the pointer type stands out clearly and prominently, and saving the peculiar distribution of the black and white on the skin, the external differences are *nil*. But whether or not this dog is by nature a game dog, in this country he has so long been confined to the stable that he is now pre-eminently a carriage dog, and he seems to care for no other occupation. Whether quietly resting in a stall or a loose box, or accompanying a carriage, he is equally content, and in the latter capacity he is jubilant, though unlike the collie, he does not display his joy in barking at the horses' heads, but quietly and closely follows their heels between the fore-wheels. Most other varieties of the species soon tire of going long journeys on the road at a fast pace; but the Dalmatian perseveres year after year, and never seems to lose the zeal which he originally displayed.

In spite, however, of the authority of Youatt, who states that "this dog is said to be used in his native country for the chase," the Dalmatian has always been included in our shows among the "dogs not used in field sports," and for this reason I have classed him among the watch dogs. In the time of Youatt, as would appear from the illustration given by him, the peculiar marking now insisted on was not so imperative; and it would be easy to find an English pointer almost exactly resembling his engraving in this respect. The color of the Devonshire pointer bitch Romp, well known at recent field trials, very nearly approaches this standard, and no doubt, by a judicious selection from her puppies, a moderately good Dalmatian might soon be produced.

From the prevalence of the breed at the institution of shows, it is not surprising that a class was soon formed for it, the first being at the Birmingham exhibition of 1860; but on that occasion the dogs were so bad that, acting as judge, I withheld the prizes altogether. In the following year, at Leeds, a fairly good class appeared, and for some time after this the breed seemed to be rising in public estimation and in appearance; but latterly the

colley has superseded it as a carriage dog, and, though some very fine specimens are occasionally exhibited, the classes, on the average, are badly filled. Mr. Harrison's Carlo was the chief prize winner until his son, Mr. R. J. L. Price's Crib, appeared at Birmingham in 1866, since which time the latter maintained his supremacy until 1874, when age had begun to tell upon him. In that year his younger brother of the same name, belonging to Mr. Hall, of Burton-on-Trent, beat him at Birmingham, and he retired from competition. Since then Mr. Fawdry's Captain has been the chief prize winner, his color and markings being specially good. He was bred by Mr. Burges, by Captain, out of Countess; and, commencing at Nottingham in 1875, has since then monopolized all the first prizes at the London, Birmingham, and other important shows.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE NUMERICAL VALUE OF THE POINTS OF THE DALMATIAN.

Value.	Value.	Value.
1. Head 10	4. Legs and Feet..... 10	7. Coat 5
2. Neck 5	5. Tail 5	8. Color 10
3. Body 5	6. Symmetry 10	9. Markings 40
20	25	55
Total—100.		

1. The head (v. 10) exactly resembles that of the pointer, but so long as the nose is cleanly cut under the eyes, and square at the point, great breadth is not insisted on, and there should be no flews. The ears should not be long and houndlike, but flat, thin and vine-shaped, lying close to the cheeks, and rather smaller than those of the pointer. Eyes small, dark and brilliant.

2. The neck (v. 5) should be arched like that of the pointer, without any throatiness or approach to dewlap.

3. The body (v. 5) must be moderately strong, but not heavy and lumbering; sloping shoulders and a muscular loin are imperative.

4. In legs and feet (v. 10) the Dalmatian ought to be perfect, as his sole employment is on the road; very strong bone is, however, not demanded, as he has no shocks to withstand, and useless lumber of any kind is to be deprecated. However, straight limbs, united with elbows well let down, and clean hocks, form the desideratum in this breed. The feet must be strong and close, whether hare or cat-like; and the horny sole should specially be regarded as of necessity thick and tough.

5. The tail (v. 5) should be small in bone after it leaves the root, and should be gently curved in one direction only, not with any approach to a corkscrew twist.

6. The symmetry (v. 10) should be examined closely, and, if deficient, penalized accordingly.

7. In coat (v. 5) this dog resembles the pointer in all respects, being short, without any approach to silkiness.

8. The color (v. 10) is either black, liver, or dark blue. Sometimes there is a stain of tan about the head and legs, which is not objected to. A clear jet black is more highly valued than black and tan, the liver and blue being of equal value.

9. The marking (v. 40) is the point on which the judging of this dog mainly depends, some breeders valuing it at 50 out of the 100. I cannot, however, think that a well-marked cripple should prevail over a moderately well-marked dog perfect in all other respects, and I have consequently lowered the valuation of this point to 40. In no case should there be a black patch on any part of the body or head exceeding the size of half a crown, and the nearer the spots approach to the size intermediate between a shilling and half a crown, and to the circular shape, the higher the estimate made. None should be smaller (if possible) than the shilling; but no dog has ever yet appeared without a few such "flecks" or "freckles." A well-spotted tail is greatly admired, but it is very rarely met with. The white ground should be quite distinct from the spots, without any approach to freckles on it, and the more regularly the spots are distributed the better. It is usual to divide the valuation of the several qualities in the markings as follows: Size, 15; shape and well-defined edges, 15; regular distribution so as to avoid patches of white, 10.

The Best Birds to Train Dogs On.

MR. DILLEY'S OPINION.—Lake City, Minn.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—In training young dogs, the first thing to be considered is: How shall we arrive at perfection with them, so as to get the best style, pace and range required; to hunt for the different birds that the dog shall find and point, so as to give his master the better opportunity to kill and bag?

This can be done by giving him his first experience on the bird that he is least inclined to hunt properly, directing his education in those channels where his faculties require most improvement. Some dogs naturally discriminate their game, and when trained to obedience and command, and taken afield, go to work like "old timers," while others will require the greatest care and watchfulness to control them to proper action. The first could, in fact, be hunted on either kind, while the latter would be required to do their work in the open, where their every action could be seen, and faults corrected, and on birds only that lie well. Dogs, like men, after hunting all kinds, delight and really excel on some particular variety of game. Though they have received their first lessons alike, they have their element and their choice, is perceptible. Here their natural powers attest a supremacy.

Dogs broken from season to season on one kind, will naturally, and their progeny with less instruction, succeed best on that bird. Then to commence their education give them the birds that will tend to increase their knowledge, experience, and enlarge their powers of discrimination. If their pace is slow, improve it; increase their range. If they are inclined to trail, hunt on the bird that lies well and does not run. Follow up the plan that will correct their faults and enlarge their usefulness, and you will have better dogs than to confine their lessons to a given or particular species.

My experience dates back to and since the Autumn of 1858, and many are the youngsters I have tutored. The age of the dog has as much to do with the time to commence, as locality and the game. Their habits vary East, West, North and South, and the grounds to be hunted are also different. Our game principally hunted with the dog is, snipes, woodcocks, pinated grouse, quails and ruffed grouse. Snipes arrive here generally early in the Spring time. My youngster is old enough to commence work. These birds are found on the margins of our lakes and sloughs, and on warm days lie well to the dog, on others will try the patience and nose, and the best dog will sometimes fail. The ground is open with plenty of cover for the bird. Should I wait until the coming August, and forego all the benefits and the pleasure that I and the youngster will enjoy? Not at all. This is the bird then, under the circumstances, on which to commence his experience. The scent is delicate, and with the weather so varied, that one can bring out all the powers of the dog, testing the qualities of nose and staunchness, and bring out all the faults of the animal while the eye is upon him, so that he can be corrected at the proper moment.

In July comes the cock-shooting. Shall I stop or give him "further light," and on them, different experience. I will give him the opportunity. He has now passed his second degree, and is ready for the 15th of August, at which time we lie away to the broad prairies; and here comes for me the grandest and most perfect sport! Here it is his education receives a more perfect

lesson, and he arrives at the sublime degree. He is continued on quails and then on ruffed grouse; and if he has the proper requisites of breeding, those qualities that have taken years to produce—brain power, just discrimination, with a nose to sustain any amount of speed, with his training, you have a dog broken on the proper game birds.

I do not consider a dog worked for his first season, on only one variety of birds, though he is competent to win a trial on that bird, can and without experience win a trial against a dog, though not his equal, on a different field and bird, that the latter has been trained to.

One man says, this bird, another that, and they all have their merits; but they only go to prove that a dog is not properly broken until he is trained on each variety. It then resolves itself back to the starting point: The animal to train, the disposition, the characteristics needing most culture, locality and habits of the birds, to best subserve the object to be attained, and that he is not properly and thoroughly broken until, with him, and the gun, you can bring to bag in perfect style any bird desired to hunt. And from my experience of twenty years, my dogs were better on each particular kind, after being hunted and trained on all, and the bird that gives them the greatest and most varied experience is "dot little" quail.

P. S.—In all my observation, I have yet to find that young prairie chickens withhold their scent.

G.'S OPINION.—Newark, N. J.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—None among your numerous correspondents discussing, "the best birds to break dogs upon," seem to have found the true inwardness of the matter.

Some have assumed that all dogs hunt too fast and need restriction; some that all are too slow and need encouragement to extend their range; but so far as we have seen it has not been admitted that different dogs need different modes of instruction, according to their different temperaments, dispositions and habits.

I do not mean to say that one can make a good dog by breaking on the kind of game suited to the dog's temperament, but I do believe a better broken dog can be had than if worked upon one particular kind of bird for all dogs. My preferences are for first working a high ranging courageous dog in cover;—almost all of our shooting is of this description, excepting snipe—for first working a slow, timid dog, in the open, on snipe. This would be equivalent to working on pinated grouse in the West. The old saying that "a good horse cannot be of a bad color," is a truism that with slight variation will apply to a dog. A good dog cannot be broken on the wrong kind of game. Mr. Brooks' Bismarck was a notable instance—first worked on the prairies, excelling there; when brought East he soon showed the same superiority on snipes and in cover. It would have been immaterial what kind of game he had been first worked upon.

During thirty years experience with dogs in the field and kennel we have met with all kinds—dogs fast, dogs slow, dogs timid, dogs courageous, dogs vicious and dogs noble, dogs with exquisite noses and those deficient in nose, dogs remarkably intelligent and those almost wholly deficient in intelligence.

We have seen excellent dogs in the open that were first worked in cover. We have seen excellent dogs in cover that were first worked in the open. We have seen some of the slowest dogs that were excellent in the open on snipes, and we have seen some of the fastest that were among the very best on ruffed grouse.

One of the best snipe dogs I ever saw in the field never had a snipe killed over him until after he was five years old. We knew of another over seven years old when first worked upon snipes, that acquired a great reputation as a snipe dog.

I have also seen many dogs that were good only upon one special kind of game, one dog that I broke, or attempted to break on snipes, never pointed one, it being impossible for him to smell the bird, though he afterwards proved a fair dog on quails and woodcocks. He was tried frequently afterwards on snipes and never succeeded in scenting one, though he invariably dropped when he flushed one, and always seemed much chagrined.

One of our neighbors has a dog now over five years old that he paid a long price for, after seeing him work on woodcocks and ruffed grouse, but finds the dog cannot smell a snipe, though he tries never so hard.

The superiority of one dog over another is inherent, though constant and judicious work will partially repair the deficiency where it exists.

Many may disagree with me, but this I believe to be true: that all dogs that track birds or hunt by foot scent are deficient in nose; that all dogs that make false points are also deficient in nose.

LAZARSON'S OPINION.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—In the last issue of your paper I noticed several articles from known sportsmen, setting forth their views under the head of the best birds on which to break dogs. One correspondent says: "I always train (I never break) my dogs." I take exceptions to this last clause, and as I have frequently seen similar statements, will say that in my experience with animals of any kind I never saw one properly trained which was not first broken.

A few months ago I procured a fine blooded horse which had never been handled, and the first time I attempted to give him some insight into the mysteries which make a horse useful to mankind, I found I had more than my hands full. He was ugly, vicious and wild. The first thing I did was to teach him that man's art was superior to mere strength, and the fact gradually dawned upon his brain that I was master. When I had broken him I began to teach him, and to-day I have a fine courageous, gentle animal.

So with the canine species. A dog who goes into the field and does remarkably well on the start is seldom a well trained dog from the fact that he has never been broken, and the sportsman sometimes finds to his sorrow that when he most desires the services of his supposed dutiful animal that he is "found wanting," that the dog's will-power, which has so long remained dormant, has at last been awakened and your control is gone.

The first lesson my puppies receive is obedience; I break them; I give them to understand that my will is law. This first and most important lesson is given in all kindness and firmness, and my puppies after their lessons are inculcated seem to love me better than before, and forever after are under my control and do my bidding willingly and cheerfully. I then teach them, learn them, or train them if you wish, and have found that without first lessons in breaking the training comes hard.

PARTRIDGE'S OPINION.—North Brookfield, Mass.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—I have read a good many men's opinions on which is the best bird to train a young dog on. I must put in my opinion. I think my Springfield neighbor, "Ruffed Grouse," is about right. I think that if you have a dog that will work on ruffed grouse you have one that will work on any game bird. In regard to ranging, they will all do all that is required. The great fault is, they will range too much if you will allow them their heads. I have never had the good luck to find one that if you would allow him a yard would not take ten rods. I have a pup that I trained on ruffed grouse that I think will work as well as any dog that has been broken on chickens, and I think our partridge will lay as close for a dog as any game bird in the world.

I did not shoot quails last Fall—or at least, I did not go out for the express purpose of getting quails; but one day at the very last of the season my pup came to a point on some of them, and I could not see but what he worked as well on them as the dog that was with him that was broken on them. It will take some very long arguments by old gunners to persuade me that ruffed grouse is not the best bird to train a dog on. If "Mohawk" should decide ever to come down into Massachusetts to spend a day in the field, if he will take ruffed grouse, and come down to North Brookfield, I will agree to give him fifty shots at from four to six rods rise. I think that is about as close as one can ask for birds to lay. We have a fine lot of birds left over from last season, and it has been a very good Winter for birds, and we expect great sport next Fall if we have a good May and June. Those two months are what tell the story for birds.

PARTRIDGE.

Defends Himself and Dog.

ALLEGHENTY CITY, PA.

EDITOR CHICAGO FIELD:—In your issue of Feb. 23, appears an article headed "Sailing Under False Colors," by Mr. Snellenberg, of New Brighton, Pa., and as he accuses me of making false representations, I desire also to be heard through your columns, to see if Mr. Snellenberg can justify himself for his cowardly attack upon me. In order to lay the case fairly before your readers, I shall have to go back a little and give my authority for what I say. Four years ago I bought Rover, the winning dog at Cincinnati in 1877 and at Pittsburgh, 1878, from Henry Walther, of New Castle. I bought him solely upon his merits as a field dog, and never have I regretted it, for he is one of the handsomest dogs I ever saw, as well as one of the finest field dogs. I did not then know the pedigree of his dam, nor did his owner, but we knew that his sire was Streeter's dog, of Youngstown, O. Subsequently I ascertained that Dr. Dickson, one of the most eminent physicians of Pittsburgh, was the former owner of his dam, and from him I ascertained that his grandam was imported and his dam imported *in utero*, and was bought and presented to him by his friend, a Mr. Young. Afterward he presented her to a friend of his near New Castle, Pa., and at New Castle she was bred to Streeter's dog. Of the pedigree of Streeter's dog I know nothing, but Dr. Duncan and James Verner, and others of our most honored citizens, have told me that he was a very rare animal in the field (will some of the sportsmen of Youngstown who read this please give his pedigree through CHICAGO FIELD, if possible, as I understand Mr. Streeter has left there and I do not know where to address him). Now, for Mr. Snellenberg's statement. I challenge Mr. Snellenberg to cite one case wherein Rover's pedigree has been given other than I have given it here, and until he does prove such a case I insist that he has falsified when he says that I am misrepresenting his pedigree. I also challenge him to show one paper in which Rover was ever advertised as a stud dog, or one letter, either, except where I have answered some application made to me to breed to him. Mr. Snellenberg's interest in the sportsmen of Pittsburgh, or any other place, goes just as far as their pockets and no farther, and if he is seeking a little cheap notoriety at my expense he is welcome to it. Rover was fine enough to beat his dogs easily at Pittsburgh, and sour grapes have made others squeal besides him since the world commenced to revolve on its axis. I did tell Mr. Snellenberg that I should probably put Rover in the stud in the Spring, but when I told him this I expected to occupy premises where I would have ground room sufficient for the purpose, but other arrangements have prevented that, and so I trust Mr. S. will possess his soul in peace. Not only has Rover not been advertised in the stud, but time and again have I refused to breed to him, because the owners of the bitches to be served lived so far away that they could not bring their bitches and take them away as soon as served.

As far as Rover's get are concerned there has never been any long-haired whelps yet, and there are quite a number of them around here. Geo. Perkins, of the P. R. R., has one that Mr. Snellenberg could not buy for all the dogs in his kennel, his Laverack Thunder included. If Mr. Snellenberg wants to win with his pointers at bench shows he must get better dogs. If he had come to me in a gentlemanly way and told me that he had discovered something in Rover's pedigree that I did not know, I would have given him a respectful hearing, and then if I had refused to act upon it as it deserved he might have rushed into print with some degree of justification. As it is, I leave it to those who know me best, whether I would misrepresent the pedigree of a dog or not.

Before closing I wish to state that during the year 1877 I sold Rover to Mr. Land, of Philadelphia, but bought him back again the same year. I am not aware that he was allowed to serve any bitches while he owned him, but do not think he was.

F. A. TREMAINE.

A VISIT TO THE KENNEL OF MATTHEW VONCULIN.—Pittsburgh, Pa.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—I have just returned from an Eastern trip, and as I have gratified a long-felt wish to visit the inventor of the spike collar. I feel that perhaps it may be somewhat interesting to the readers of the CHICAGO FIELD who may not have gratified a similar desire, to hear how his dogs behaved themselves in their well-ordered kennel. I arrived at VonCulin's about five o'clock P. M., after a three-hours' ride down the Delaware, during which a strong desire for a ten-pound breech loader that would shoot a mile presented itself. Myriads of ducks rose out of gun shot before me. At last we reach the landing at Delaware City, and the first question I ask is, where does VonCulin live? I find every man, woman and child can tell me, and I start for the home of the celebrated breeder. Just before reaching the house I met him, and after a hearty shake and a "How do you do?" Von proposes that we shall look at the dogs while it is yet light. He opens a door close at hand and out springs a beautiful Irish setter who gaily begins a speedy if not systematic range across the common—a whistle and he comes obediently to heel and awaits his master's pleasure. This is Rufus III, by Rufus II, out of Moll II, and a full brother to my dead Bob, though not of the same litter. The door is again opened and Ollie, litter sister to Gladstone, appears. Ollie is a gem of the first water, and one that any man may be proud to own. We turn to the right and from another enclosure, obedient to the word, comes forth Rory O'More, True and Queen Bess. These, Mr. Editor, are three hard dogs to beat in America. Rory with his magnificent coat and rollicking air is a beau ideal of an Irish setter, and one can easily imagine why he won 1st at New York. He is litter brother to Rufus II.

One of the finest heads I ever saw is set on the shoulders of True. Her pedigree is well known by sportsmen generally, but for the benefit of those who may not know it I will give it here: She is by Llewellyn's Prince out of Dora, and is full sister to Druid, Drake, Dart, Duke and Dimple. Her brain power is immense. Her head would do honor to a Cuvier. But to my mind, the finest English bitch in his kennel is Queen Bess—royal Queen Bess—though within two days of her accouchement, she looked every inch a queen among the canine race. She is seven-eighths Laverack and is by Adams' Rock out of Demuth's Pickles. Since I came home I learn that she is the happy mother of eight puppies by Carlowitz. And here let me remark that Carlowitz is one

of the best boned Laveracks I have ever seen, and had I a Laverack bitch I would breed to him in preference to any Laverack I have ever seen.

Enclosure after enclosure is opened until dogs swarm around us and one begins a mental calculation as to the time and amount required to satisfy their digestive apparatus. I have not time to dwell longer on them, but one or two more I must mention: One is Colleen, the Irish prize winner at Crystal Palace, and Moll II, who never threw a poor pup in her life. Moll III, by Rufus II, out of Moll II, is one of the fine ones, and a litter of hers by Grouse, brother to Kite, attracted my special attention. Clytie, by Elcho, out of Fire Fly, has a magnificent head, and if she lives, I think will be heard from.

One thing attracted my attention, and that was the perfectly willing obedience rendered to VonCulin by his dogs. Whether it be the result of the spike collar or not I do not know, but the willing obedience rendered to him by his dogs justifies him in his assertions of the perfect understanding between himself and them. I am not an advocate of the spike collar; I have never felt I needed it, but the want of any cringing looks or trembling limbs, as they obeyed his orders, went far towards convincing me that the judicious use of the spike collar is not calculated to ruin any well-bred dog. But my letter is spun out to a greater length than I had intended, and so I close, well pleased with my visit to the kennel of Matthew VonCulin.

AUGUSTINE.

DON'S MERITS—A FAIR CHALLENGE.—Greenville, Pa.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—In the columns of your valuable paper of the 9th inst., there appears an article over the signature of I. C. Hobaugh, written not by him, but for him, in which he charges me with maliciously misrepresenting his so-called thoroughbred blood-red Irish setter Don, in an article signed Leo, and published in your issue of the 9th ult. Indeed, I was not aware that it was malice or jealousy that prompted me to write that article, much less that I misrepresented the dog. My convictions are just as clear and firm to-day that the dog cannot justly be termed a thoroughbred blood-red Irish setter as when I wrote my former article; not only from the fact that the gentleman has failed to prove to the contrary, but from the fact that the size, points and general make-up of the dog, to say nothing about that of his sire, alone tends to show conclusively that he is a cross-bred dog. If the dog is what he claims him to be—a thoroughbred red Irish setter—why does he not clearly demonstrate the fact by producing a full and clearly authenticated pedigree, which he has as yet failed to do, as well as explain how it chanced to happen that the dog became possessed with such charming light cream-colored eyes and light flesh-colored nose.

I would most respectfully beg leave to ask Mr. H., as well as the Editor of the CHICAGO FIELD, and the most prominent and successful breeders of the pure blood-red Irish dog, both in this country and across the pond, in the land of their origin, whether or not the light-colored eye and flesh-colored nose are considered true characteristics of pure Irish blood? Will our friends Burges, Jarvis, Stoddard, Bierbower, Turner and Farrar, (who have all been successful breeders,) be kind enough to express their views upon this subject and thereby enlighten the ignorant in this remote corner of the hemisphere. You can certainly tell us whether or not Elcho, Rufus, Friend, Kitty, Loo II and Plunket have noses and eyes of the color above mentioned, or whether it is a mishap that they have not. Mr. H. even goes so far to prove that Don is thoroughbred Irish, that he admits that all the evidence he has to show that the dog is Irish on the sire's side is that he is grandson of Frazier's Staunch. Does this tend to prove that Don is a thoroughbred? Even supposing this to be true, without first clearly showing evidence that his statements are based upon facts, does the gentleman claim he can produce a thoroughbred breed from a half breed? What blood was the granddam on the sire's side? In all probability she was Russian, as the gentleman himself has positively asserted that the sire of Don was one-half Russian. This he cannot deny, for I have conclusive evidence that he did not reveal the fact to me alone, but dropped it into the ears of others, who are ready and willing to testify to the same. That the sire of Don is orange and white, not red, (the white almost predominating,) is an undeniable fact, which any of the sportsmen of this place, who have ever seen the dog, will not deny.

I would respectfully beg leave to inform Mr. H. that I keep a few canines solely for the benefit of their services in the field, and not for exhibition on the bench. Yet I accept his challenge, which appears in the second paragraph of his article. Name the amount, Mr. H., that you wish to compete for, as well as time and place, and whether or not on the bench or in the field. Put up one-half of the purse as a forfeit, and you will soon see whether or not I have the sand.

W. H. ACHER.

AN EULOGY OF LILLY.—Germantown, Tenn.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—As our Bluff City, little Memphis, was so victorious at St. Louis with the setter, and as Bluff City, not little Bluff City's time, with royal little Gladstone, who, however, proved himself quite a large dog when it came to issuing out the prizes as well as in the trials at Nashville, returned laden with trophies to tell the tale of their success, I wish to say a word for that long neglected dog, the pointer. I am pleased to see them again coming into favor, and it is believed by many of our Southern sportsmen, it is the coming dog of the South. I wish to speak especially of the beautiful little Lilly, whose home was once in Memphis and once the property of the mighty "Guido," but has since changed her sunny home for one of Northern clime. Of this bitch and her progeny, I suppose, I know more than anyone, especially of their field qualities, having shot the first bird that Lilly ever pointed. She was then in the hands of Mr. Horsfall. I have also shot over five of her pups out of one litter by Flake, and they were a grand lot of clippers. Beulah, who is the pride of "Edisto's" kennel, is said by that gentleman to be a wonder in the field, and I understand that two, owned by a gentleman in Louisiana, are first-class in the field. None of Lilly's pups, however, had an opportunity to show what they could do in a field trial. Unfortunately Guy died just as I was on the eve of starting North last Summer, or he would have been shown. He was perfectly broken, and was a hard one to beat. So great was his speed that "Bluff City" suggested he be called Rocket. Rush and Rose are as grand a brace as any man need wish—fast, stylish and staunch—working in heavy cover unflinchingly, though the blood was almost streaming from them; I have shot over them when their feet were cut and bruised by snow and ice. Rose retrieved me a hare during the snow which we had in January over a branch that was full of ice. I have sent her time after time into thick briar patches for dead birds, and she has never once refused to go when ordered, nor would she ever come out without her game, and never was her graceful neck encircled by a spike collar. She did not work through fear, but for love of her master.

So much for their field qualities; now for their bench show qualities. It is claimed for Royal Fan, owned by Mr. Dilley, to have produced more show winners than any bitch in America. From this statement I beg to differ. I think Lilly, though I believe she has only been bred twice, to be the mother of more bench show winners than any pointer bitch in the Union. She threw ten to Flake the first time she was bred; out of this litter

were five winners, viz., Rush, Rose, Ruby, Belle and Daisy. These have won every time they have been shown. The others of the litter were never shown. She was next mated to Sensation, and St. Louis can testify that from this cross she produced at least one of sterling worth. Take Lilly from the first time she was shown to the present time and we find that she and her pups have won more prizes than any other American bitch. I suppose I have taken up enough of your valuable space; but oh, for the eloquence of a "Guido," or a quill plucked from the wing of the magic goddess of Mont Clare, that I might more fully portray the merits of this grand little bitch, who notwithstanding her diminutive size, deserves the proud title of Victoria Lilly. For have not she and her progeny snatched the garlands of victory from the brow of an hundred noble aspirants.

GEO. W. WINFORD.

MR. VON CULIN TO SAND SNIPE.—Delaware City, Del.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—"Then was the Winter of our discontent," when like "Sand Snipe" we struggled on with our inclinations, assisted by the prettily told stories of the silk stockinged book writer, who, mid the luxury of his cushions, the balm of his Havana, and the dreamy influence of rosy wine, draws on his imagination for a unity of will in dog and master. Not suddenly but sure was my awakening to a knowledge that "dog will" is no less independent in its sphere or powerful than man's. Dogs as intelligent beings can be persuaded, but the very feature in his organization which prompts him to works of love (intelligence giving him will power) prompts him to disobedience to act in concert with his ideas of pleasure, or self-gratification. When at home under the influence of "the bread and meat" or "Hutchinson's system," obedience gratifies the cravings of an empty stomach—the longer the starvation and the choicer the morsel the more prompt the so-called obedience. I ask the question, is this obedience, or is it self-gratification? Does it strengthen the bond of love between dog and master? Is this unity of will? It is a training which serves some men's purposes so far as it goes; it does no harm as first lessons, but is a waste of time, for all and more than it does is done as a duty and in less time. But this is not the point at issue. Neither "Kit Killbird" nor "Sand Snipe" denies this, but in their heart of hearts admit it. The burden of their "discontent" seems to be the cruelty of the system. That the spike collar is less cruel than the whip, every one who has used one can testify, or who has ever trained a dog, or kept one trained with the whip. It is both unjust and unwise for a man to speak so knowingly and positively, from theory only, and in flat contradiction to the published experience of many of our most noted trainers. "Sand Snipe" makes a mistake in stating that Peg would not retrieve. She was, as all her strain, a natural retriever. I have Mr. Bestor's letter stating that she would retrieve nicely before she was sent to me, which she would do so long as she was in my kennel; there are at least a dozen gentlemen in this place who have seen her do it. "Sand Snipe" leaves the impression (I hope not intentionally) that I returned her as trained, and she would not retrieve. Such is not the case. I took her to train on woodcock, after being poisoned three times with swamp sumach so badly that I could not carry a gun, in consequence of which I asked him to take her off my hands, which he very kindly did. From his letter it would also appear that the dog Rascal was trained with the spike collar, which if it is the same dog that I boarded for him and was trained by Mr. Ayers, of New Jersey, I can assure him that he is mistaken. I know Mr. Ayers to be a good trainer, and I also know and so do others in this place, that I could make Rascal fetch whatever he was ordered to fetch. Since "Sand Snipe" has made his letter personal I would ask him to state how many dogs he has trained in his time, so that we may judge therefrom the value of his theories. A school teacher said to his scholars, "children, I want you to be so quiet you can hear a pin drop." It became quiet, such as was never known before; after a short pause, a small boy cries out, "let her drop." So say I, "let her drop," but it must be "Sand Snipe" who does the dropping.

M. VON CULIN.

IN-BREEDING.—Brooklyn, N. Y.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—Enclosed is an excerpt from Rev. Joseph Cook's last Boston lecture on Heredity. He has made up his mind that in-breeding for the human race, at least, works mischief. The question is a very interesting one, and the discussion in the CHICAGO FIELD will add some light, let us hope.

"The intermarriage of highly gifted relatives tends to diminish, rather than to increase, the ability of the race."

"Niebuhr says that aristocracies, when obliged to recruit their numbers among themselves, fall into decay, and often into insanity, dementia and imbecility. Who does not know that this truth might be illustrated by vast ranges of historical knowledge, were there time here for the presentation of details? The Lagidae and Seleucidae for ten hundred years intermarried, and through nine hundred years were in a process of mysterious decay."

"Who does not know that it was the feeling of many of our Revolutionary fathers that half the thrones of Europe were filled by persons more or less erratic on account of descending from relatives? It was one of the propositions Jefferson often talked about in private, that the thrones of Europe were filled with imbeciles, the results of consanguineous marriages. The rule of the Church of England to-day on this topic is more strict than has been that of some decayed royal houses."

One thing must, perhaps, be granted, that if in-breeding enervates the constitution in the human, it will do the same in the inferior races.

As to the genus *homo*, the opinion seems to be almost universal that in-breeding is injurious. There is an instinct against it.

There are moral reasons against it, not to say religious ones. And it is possible that the hurt of constitution from near intermarriage comes from mental sources and not from physical ones.

Mind has an original influence over body. A self-degraded mind, through subtle and gradual changes, will degrade the body.

But the opinion best approved by experience as to the influence of careful in-breeding on horses and cattle seems to be that the constitution is not injured but improved thereby. The Arab horse is given in illustration, whose pedigree goes back to Mahomet's time, in the best strains, and that without crossing. So with many of the best English races. The Durham ox and Ditchley sheep are given as the triumph of in-breeding.

One of my books gives the following: "The present state of the controversy, as it has been recently conducted in France, may be summed up in the proposition that consanguineous alliances are not necessarily hurtful to the offspring, provided the parents be healthy and robust."

CLERICUS.

THANK YOU!—Lake City, Minn.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—Will you kindly permit me through the columns of your valuable paper to thank our mutual friend "Kit Killbird" for a complimentary copy of his manual entitled "Dog Paths to Success." I take great pleasure in recommending it to the fraternity, believing that all will be benefitted by following its paths and precepts to success in the art of perfecting dog education.

S. B. DILLEY.

The Irish Setter Ranger.

CHICAGO, ILL.

EDITOR CHICAGO FIELD:—As "Warwick" has endeavored to show that the red Irish setter champion Ranger is not as well bred as any Irish setter in this country, I would like you to insert the accompanying letter from H. Jephson, Esq., who bred Ranger. Mr. Jephson is considered good authority on this breed, and his high social and political position in Ireland entitles his opinion to great weight. If "Warwick" can produce as good authority that any Irish dog in this country is as well or better bred, it will be more satisfactory to those interested in the breed than mere assertions without proof. I have now no interest in Ranger, having sold him to G. & S. Fowler, Fort Wayne, Ind., but think as I always did, as a "stock dog he has no superior."

J. H. WHITMAN.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Dublin, 20th Feb., 1878.

DEAR SIR:—I received your letter of the 13th December last, together with a copy of the CHICAGO FIELD of 15th December, containing a letter signed "Warwick," on the subject of the pedigree of the Irish red setter Ranger, bred by me, with some general remarks on the pedigrees of Irish setters.

Circumstances prevented my replying to your letter at once, and I was, besides, waiting for the further copy of the CHICAGO FIELD, which you stated you would send me.

I wish at the outset to correct an error in "Warwick's" letter. He states that my Lilly II was by Brennan's Rap, out of my Belle. This is inaccurate. She was by Major Cooper's prize dog Ranger, out of Belle, being by Captain Hutchinson's champion Bob, out of his Lilly, all of whose pedigrees are given in the Kennel Club Stud Book.

As regards the breeding of your dog Ranger, it appears that "Warwick" objects to him on account of a stain in his pedigree, and he states that other dogs which he names have pedigrees "Where a stain cannot be found"—his inference being that Ranger is impurely bred, the others purely.

As you are interested in the matter, and as I have some small experience therein, I beg to inform you that I am of opinion that the statement that "stains cannot be found" is one that requires an amount of evidence that cannot possibly be obtained. It is only since the pedigrees of dogs have become a matter of importance, namely, within the last few years, that records of pedigrees have been kept. For investigating a pedigree, one has generally at a very early stage, to be satisfied with the information that such and such a progenitor, whose pedigree one is anxious to obtain, belonged to Mr. So-and-so, who was believed to have a very good breed of Irish setters, although the animal in question may have been the result of a cross.

When we remember that a dog has two grandsires and two grand-dams, or, to go a generation back, four great grandsires, and four great grand-dams, to assert that a particular dog has no stain in his pedigree, entails the assertions that all the eight great-grand-parents were pure bred, and this with our present very scanty knowledge of pedigrees is one which, so far as my experience goes, is absolutely and entirely incapable of proof.

The opinions of those most entitled to credit are opposed to the idea of the existence of absolutely pure Irish setters. The marked difference of types which one sees at any large show of Irish setters, can in fact only be accounted for on the assumption that numerous crosses have been made in the breed.

The most one can do is to breed from the best types of an Irish setter, especially when one really knows something of their breeding. This I did in the case of Larry, who besides being a very handsome dog had some of the very best Irish blood in his veins, which I knew as a fact from Major Barton's written records extending over a period of thirty-five years.

I believe that your Ranger is quite as pure a bred Irish setter as there is. Few dogs can boast of three of their nearest ancestors being champions, namely: Lilly II, Major Cooper's Ranger and Captain Hutchinson's Bob. His great great grandsire was, it is true, a black Scotch setter, but I doubt very much if any of the persons "Warwick" names in his letter could give much more than the name of more than one—if some of them could do that—of the great great grandsires, or great great granddams of any of the animals named in his letter. I am perfectly certain that they could not give the names of all of them, or prove anything of their breeding. These generalities as to a dog's breeding and "So and so" having a "good strain," are worthless as proof, and hearsay evidence, as nearly all pedigree evidence is, is not very much better. In breeding from Larry I acted only after full consideration, and upon good advice, and the result has fully borne out my decision in the matter. The litter all round were remarkably handsome, and I am very glad to hear of Ranger doing so well in America. I thought so highly of the breed that I kept one of them, Sheelah, (who took second prize, Crystal Palace, '76), and my friend W. Wallace, whose name is well known as an Irish setter breeder, has done the same, both animals being in the opinion of some of the best judges, very perfect specimens of Irish setters.

HENRY JEPHSON.

GOES FOR HANNIBAL'S GORDONS.—Salem, Mass.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—In your last issue I see an article on the Gordon setter. By Hannibal's authority the Gordon setter must be a worthless cur. Is it not strange this has never been discovered before? For the past one hundred years this dog has ranked with the best in England and America, and at this late date, Hannibal steps to the front and tells us they are only fit for watch dogs, and they are worthless in the field. I think the kind of Gordons that Hannibal owns must have been like a large number of so-called Gordons I knew of some fifteen years ago. Mr. Skaggs, of Sacramento, Cal., (a sportsman and great lover of the horse and dog,) imported a Gordon setter; well do I remember his royal highness, old Dick. He was a beauty, and such a worker could not be beaten at any field trials. Mr. Skaggs was a very liberal man, and every one that had a bitch, no matter of what breed, obtained the use of old Dick. So in a few years Sacramento county was well stocked with Gordons. Any dog that had a black and tan hair on him was a Gordon, because old Dick was his sire. They were a queer lot of Gordons. During the past few years I have had three or four Gordon puppies to break, and in every instance they were first-class workers and made good dogs—and when I say good dogs, I mean they proved themselves so in the field. I will mention one, the Gordon bitch Nellie, the property of J. K. Orr, of San Francisco. She was imported and a better working bitch never backed a point, or a truer sportsman never put a breech plate to his shoulder than her owner. Hannibal admits that they all had good noses; then I must say they were not properly handled. How many good dogs have been spoiled in this same way! If you expect your dogs to work well put them in the hands of some good reliable trainers and you will save money in the end.

WOODCOCK.

A HELLHOUND LOOSE.—Greenville, Pa.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—Some dog-poisoning fiend has made his appearance here, and on Saturday evening poisoned my red Irish setter dog Don; but fortunately by discovering it in time and judicious treatment his life was saved, but he has become very stiff from its effects.

J. C. HOBAUGH.

Number of Entries at Boston.

Mr. Charles Lincoln, the Superintendent of the Massachusetts Kennel Club show, sends us the numbers of entries in each class. The total number of entries are 830, whilst he says that over 700 dogs are entered:

- SPORTING DOGS.**—Class 1. Champion English Setters.—Dogs, 9; bitches, 5.
 CLASS 2. Champion Irish setters.—Dogs, 2; bitches, 4.
 CLASS 3. Champion Gordon setters.—Dogs, 4; bitches, 3.
 CLASS 4. Champion pointers.—Dogs, 9; bitches, 5.
OPEN CLASSES.—CLASS 5. Imported English setters or their progeny of the first generation.—Dogs, 13; bitches, 6; dog puppies, 5; bitch puppies, 6.
 CLASS 6.—Native English setters.—Dogs, 53; bitches 25; dog puppies, 16; bitch puppies, 4.
 CLASS 7. Imported red or red and white Irish setters, or their progeny of the first generation.—Dogs, 10; bitches 10; dog puppies, 3; bitch puppies 4.
 CLASS 8. Native red or red and white setters, either Irish or cross-bred.—Dogs, 20; bitches, 7; dog puppies, 8; bitch puppies, 3.
 CLASS 9. Black and tan, or black, white and tan Gordon setters, either native or imported.—Dogs, 21; bitches 20; dog puppies 9; bitch puppies 5.
 CLASS 10. Pointers of 50 lbs. weight or over.—Dogs, 38; bitches, 11.
 CLASS 11. Pointers under 50 lbs. weight.—Dogs, 13; bitches, 15.
 CLASS 12. Pointer puppies under 12 months old.—Dogs, 17; bitches, 14.
 CLASS 13. Chesapeake Bay dogs.—Dogs, 3; bitches, 4.
 CLASS 14. Irish water spaniels, 14.
 CLASS 15. Clumber spaniels, 5.
 CLASS 16. Cocker spaniels, 11.
 CLASS 17. Field spaniels of any other breed, 8.
 CLASS 18. Fox-hounds, 8.
 CLASS 19. Beagles, 4.
 CLASS 20. Dachshunds, 3.
 CLASS 21. Fox-terriers, 9.
 CLASS 22. Greyhounds, 5.
 CLASS 23. Scotch deer-hounds, 5.
NON-SPORTING DOGS.—CLASS 24. Mastiffs, 21.
 CLASS 25. St. Bernards, 12.
 CLASS 26. Newfoundlands, 7.
 CLASS 27. Siberian or Ulm dogs, 3.
 CLASS 28. Dalmatian or coach dogs, 3.
 CLASS 29. Shepherd dogs or collies.—Dogs, 7; bitches, 5.
 CLASS 30. Bull-dogs, 6.
 CLASS 31. Bull-terriers, 23.
 CLASS 32. Pugs, 11.
 CLASS 33. Black-and-tan terriers, exceeding 11 lbs. in weight, 2.
 CLASS 34. Black-and-tan terriers, not exceeding 11 lbs. in weight, 11.
 CLASS 35. Skye-terriers, 14.
 CLASS 36. Scotch terriers, 6.
 CLASS 37. Dandie Dimonts, 3.
 CLASS 38. Yorkshire terriers, 4.
 CLASS 39. Toy terriers, not exceeding 5 lbs. in weight, 3.
 CLASS 40. Blenheim, King Charles, or Japanese spaniels, 6.
 CLASS 41. Italian greyhounds, 5.
 CLASS 42. Poodles, 7.
 CLASS 43. Miscellaneous, 12.
 CLASS 44. Trick dogs, 5.
 In all classes where the number of dogs and bitches are not given separately they will compete together.
SPECIAL CLASSES.—CLASS A. For the best kennel of English setters, either native or imported. Three entries.
 CLASS B. For the best kennel of Irish setters, either native or imported. Three entries.
 CLASS C. For the best kennel of Gordon setters, either native or imported. Seven entries.
 CLASS D. For the best kennel of pointers, either native or imported. Five entries.
 CLASS E. For the best kennel of water spaniels. One entry.
 CLASS F. For the best English setter stud dog, either native or imported, 5.
 CLASS G. For the best Irish setter, either native or imported, 2.
 CLASS H. For the best Gordon setter stud dog, either native or imported, 2.
 CLASS I. For the best pointer stud dog, either native or imported, 1.
 CLASS J. For the best English setter brood bitch, either native or imported, 3.
 CLASS K. For the best Irish setter brood bitch, either native or imported, 3.
 CLASS L. For the best Gordon setter brood bitch, either native or imported, 5.
 CLASS M. For the best pointer brood bitch, either native or imported, 8.
 CLASS N. For the best display of fox-hounds (not less than two couples), two entries.
 CLASS O. For the best mastiff, 9.
 CLASS P. For the best St. Bernard, 6.
 CLASS Q. For the best pug, 4.
 CLASS R. For the best pair, dogs or bitches, or dog and bitch, of Irish setters, imported or native, four entries.
 CLASS S. For the English setter dog or bitch, imported or native, that has the best and handiest head, 23.
 CLASS T. For the best setter of any breed, dog or bitch, imported or native, 9.
 CLASS U. For the best Clumber or cocker spaniel, dog or bitch, 2.
 CLASS V. For the best brace of beagles, one entry.
 CLASS W. For the best pointer of any weight, dog or bitch, native or imported, 31.
 CLASS X. For the best native setter puppy of any breed, dog or bitch, 3.
 CLASS Y. For the best Skye terrier, dog or bitch, 2.
 CLASS Z. For the best Blenheim or King Charles spaniel, no entry.

Bow.—Mr. E. C. Sterling, of St. Louis, has purchased from Mr. T. H. Scott the pointer dog Bow, which Mr. Scott brought out from England and exhibited in the St. Louis show. Consequent on the long sea voyage, and railroad journey from New York, Bow reached the show, as did all of Mr. Scott's dogs, in anything but show condition; but even then he won third place in the large pointer dog class. We have seen Bow since and examined him carefully, and are of the opinion he is the finest large pointer we have ever seen. When they meet, sensation will have to lower his colors to Bow. Mr. Sterling tried him in the field, and assures us he is as good there as on the bench—possessing a superb nose, grand style and speed, and as staunch as a rock. Mr. Sterling has entered him in the Boston show. It is Mr. Sterling's intention to run him in all the field trials to be held during the present year. Bow is a liver and white, and by Bang out of Luna. The price paid for him was £80, about \$400.

MINNEHAHA LOST.—44 Clark street, Chicago, Ill.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—I must ask the assistance of every true sportsman and lover of dogs to keep his eyes open for my setter bitch which strayed away. She is black and white ticked, by Rock out of Peg, nine months old, marked with diamond shaped spot on top of the head, black ears, black covering one eye and spot on the side or loin, white much ticked; answers to the name of Minnehaha or Minnie. We dog owners should help each other in these instances. O. F. GLIDDEN.

FOR THE BOSTON SHOW.—Mr. T. H. Scott will exhibit a fine string at the Boston show. Two of the dogs, Rock and Pound, we had the pleasure of shooting over in Arkansas, and were astonished at their fine work, which explodes the theory that imported dogs are not good for anything on our game birds, as the dogs had not been in America two weeks when we saw them work.

THE GOLDSMITH KENNEL.—M. W. J. Farrar has incorporated his kennel with the Goldsmith kennel, and in future the kennel will be known by that name, and with champion Rupert as lord of the harem it should be a center of attraction to admirers of the Gordon setter.

JOE.—Horace Smith has sold his imported Irish setter dog Joe (Joe-Molly) to Messrs. H. H. Tate, of Greensboro, N. C., and W. R. Hobart, of Newark, N. J.

GUESS AND FAN.—Mr. S. J. Martenet, Jr., has purchased of Mr. Sam Lawler, Havre-de-Grace, Md., the thoroughbred beagles Guess and Fan.

REDUCED HOTEL RATES.—Boston, March 11, 1878.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—The proprietors of the Tremont House have reduced their rates to exhibitors \$1 per day less than the usual charges. The club will make it their headquarters. CHAS. LINCOLN, Sup't.

TAR HEEL.—Mr. F. H. Andrews, Davidson College, N. C., has sold to Mr. H. T. Butler, of Charlotte, N. C., his red Irish setter puppy Tar Heel, bred by A. C. Waddell, by Grouse out of Gypsy.

Names Claimed.

KATARINA.—Mr. W. H. Holabird, of Valparaiso, Ind., claims the name of Katarina for his bitch puppy Sting II—Kate, whelped Feb. 16.

WONDER.—Mr. Wm. Vie claims the name of Wonder for orange and white dog puppy (France-Rusa) sold to Mr. J. Wempen, of Alton, Ill.

ZETE.—Mr. Solon W. Paul, of St. Louis, claims the name of Zete for his bitch puppy, whelped Feb. 16, purchased from Mr. J. W. Munson out of his imported Irish bitch Kate, by St. Louis Kennel Club's Sting II.

TEN-BROECK AND LAURA GORDON.—Mr. Thomas L. Porter claims the name of Ten-Broeck, white, black and tan dog puppy, whelped August 23, 1877, by Luke, (Carlowitz-True) out of Daisy Deans (Pride of the Border-Ruby). Also Laura Gordon, for his native bitch, by Mack, out of Zula.

FANNIE, ROWE AND BUFF.—Mr. G. W. Campbell claims the names, Fannie for his bitch pup and Rowe for his dog pup, whelped August 15, 1877, by Light, out of Buck Jr. He also claims the name of Buff for a buff colored bitch, property of Mr. Alex. McKay and of the same litter as above.

CLEOPATRA.—Mr. E. S. Sanford, Jr., claims the name of Cleopatra for his black tan with white, full Gordon setter puppy, whelped Feb. 6, 1878, by D. F. Fleet Speir's Gypsum, out of Martin's Rose.

It is strange—one of those curious coincidences of thought—that Mr. J. Fottler, Jr., claims the same name for his Rock-Jule, puppy, but as Mr. Sanford's claim is dated three days ahead he has the precedence.

NAMES FOR THE MAC-FAN LITTER.—Mr. John H. Fitchet claims the following names for a portion of a litter out of his Fan (Gildersleeve), by my Mac, (Pride of the Border—Kirby.) Hector for a black and white dog pup, sold Rev. R. G. Hamilton; Fred for a black and white dog pup, sold C. E. Corbin, both of Harts Falls, N. Y. Nicholas for a chestnut and white dog pup, sold J. E. Glass, W. Troy, N. Y. Leander for a black and white dog pup, retained for my son. Finette for a black and white bitch pup, retained for myself. All whelped January 7, 1878.

Visits.

SANK—RAPP.—Goldsmith Kennel's Sank to their Rapp.

CARRIE—BOB.—Goldsmith Kennel's Carrie to Mr. Stoddard's Bob.

DIANA—LELAPS.—Mr. F. Sumner's (Milton, Mass.) Diana to his Lelaps.

NELL—RUPERT.—Goldsmith Kennel's Nell to their champion Rupert.

FAN—RUPERT.—Goldsmith Kennel's Fan to their champion Rupert.

FLORA—MAC.—Mr. Brockway's (Hoosier, N. Y.) Flora to J. H. Fitchet's Mac.

BELLE—LELAPS.—Mr. F. Sumner's Belle (English-Irish cross-bred) to his Lelaps.

TINA—FLAKE.—Mr. S. J. Martenet, Jr.'s liver and white ticked pointer bitch Tina to Edmund Orgill's Flake.

BEAUTY—DRUID.—Mr. R. J. Colburn's blue-belted Prince—Ranger bitch Beauty to Arnold Burges' Druid on the 10th inst.

Whelps.

PET.—Mr. E. F. Merrell's Pet whelped on the 5th inst. eight puppies; all died but one dog.

FASHION.—Mr. R. B. Morgan's Fashion has whelped three dogs and six bitches by Kite, all a deep red.

QUEEN.—Mr. G. B. Clason's Queen, (Mar-Flora,) whelped four dogs and three bitches by his Royal Duke.

ZITA.—Mr. Wm. Vie's Zita whelped six by his France. Zita took first in her class at Syracuse, N. Y., ('77,) show.

FANNIE.—Mr. Sumner's (Milton, Mass.) black and tan imported Gordon setter bitch Fannie whelped on 9th inst. six black and tan puppies, by his Lelaps.

Deaths.

EMPRESS PEG.—Dr. Rowe's setter bitch Empress Peg, by Rock out of Peg, died last week. She was a great beauty and of wonderful promise.

Trap Shooting.

A PIGEON SHOOT.—A trap shoot was held at Amanda, near Lancaster, O. Conditions, ten birds each. Ohio rules; \$5 entrance; \$35 to first, \$20 to second.

SCORE.
 C. H. Hope.....1111 1110-8
 E. Helmrod.....1110 1101-8
 J. Dunkle.....1110 1101-8
 N. Stont.....0101 1011-7
 Chapman.....1101 1101-7
 F. Shaeffer.....1101 1011-7

Ties on 8, 26 yards.
 Hope.....1111-5
 Helmrod.....1110-4

Hope wins first.
 Ties on 7, 26 yards.
 Stont.....1101-3
 Shaeffer.....1010-3

Second tie on 7, 31 yards.
 Stont.....1101-3
 Shaeffer.....0000

Stont wins second.
 There was a good attendance of spectators, among whom were quite a number of ladies.

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—The Marshalltown Shooting Club had its first practice shoot March 3d. Following is the score: glass balls, 18 yards:

I. H. Brunner.....0110 0100-5
 G. A. Jones.....1100 1001-4
 S. L. Smith.....0000 0010-2
 J. S. Jones.....0010 0000-1
 A. W. Shaffer.....0000 0000-0
 E. A. Abbott.....0101 0010-4
 F. H. Griswold.....1010 1010-4
 E. D. Young.....0100 0100-2

DAVENPORT, IOWA.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—Following is the score of a match shot to-day at glass balls, with a Ballard 22 cal. gallery rifle, open sights. Balls thrown from a trap, 9 yards rise.

E. Berg.....1101 0001 0001 0010-7
 H. Ehler.....1100 0010 1100 0101-8
 Latter winning by one ball.
 P. S.

MARSHALL, TEXAS.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—A pigeon match took place here on the 1st and another on the 3d inst., of which the following is a summary:

1st. A sweepstakes of \$3 each—5 single rises, (from ground traps) 25 yards rise and 80 yards boundary; and 8 double rises, (from plunge traps) 21 yards rise and 100 yards boundary; 50 per cent. to first, 30 per cent. to second, and 20 per cent. to third, to which was added a solid sterling silver cup worth \$45 to go with first money. Appended is the score:

Name.	S. Rises.	D. Rises.	Tl.
W. H. Pope.....	11111	10 11 10-9	
J. H. Turner.....	11111	10 11 10-9	
J. R. Blalock.....	11101	11 10 10-8	
M. S. Morehouse.....	01011	11 10 11-8	
R. R. Wright.....	10101	11 10 11-8	
A. H. Stuart.....	10011	11 11 00-7	
A. W. Ellet.....	11111	10 10 00-7	
T. W. Turner.....	10111	10 10 10-7	
S. F. Perry.....	10111	10 10 10-7	
M. Haggard.....	10101	10 00 11-6	
W. P. Poland.....	10101	10 10 10-6	
A. F. McAllister.....	01001	10 11 10-6	
I. Morgan.....	11110	10 10 00-6	
W. V. Newlin.....	01010	10 10 10-5	
J. H. Goodey.....	10101	10 00 00-4	
Jas. Joyce.....	10001	10 00 10-4	
J. L. Phillips.....	10001	00 10 00-3	

Meers, Pope and Turner divided the spoils, the former taking the cup and the latter the money, \$25.50.

Ties of 8 for second money, 30 yards.

R. R. Wright.....110-2 | M. S. Morehouse.....00-0
 J. R. Blalock.....101-2

Wright and Blalock divided second money, \$15.30.
 Ties of 7 for third money, 30 yards.

A. Stuart.....111-3 | T. W. Turner.....100-1
 A. W. Ellet.....100-1 | S. F. Perry.....000-0

Stuart third money, \$10.20.

At the conclusion of the match proper, an impromptu sweepstakes match at 30 yards rise was arranged between the following gentlemen at 8 birds each for a valuable consideration:

A. H. Stuart.....111-3 | S. F. Perry.....100-1
 J. R. Blalock.....101-2 | A. F. McAllister.....101-2

Stuart wins money, \$10.
 A \$5 sweepstakes at 8 birds each, 25 yards rise, 80 yards boundary, plunge traps, \$25 to first and \$10 to second.

A. H. Stuart.....11111-6 | J. H. Turner.....101101-4
 W. H. Pope.....10111-5 | M. Haggard.....10110-4

R. R. Wright.....10111-5 | I. Morgan.....101101-4
 L. E. Austin.....10101-4

Stuart first money, \$25.
 Ties of 5 for second money, \$10.

W. H. Pope.....101-2 | R. R. Wright.....100-1

VENATOR.

ZANESVILLE, OHIO.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—We had a glass ball shoot here for a medal, to be given to the best shot. The medal was made and donated by Mr. C. H. Hoopes, of this city, and is quite a neat and appropriate one for the occasion. The conditions are that before it can become the personal property of the one winning it he has to hold it for three months against all parties that want to shoot for it, and the probabilities are that the one that does get it will have to shoot several times for it. The following is the score:

E. A. Thompson.....10110 1101-7 | G. Robinson.....00000 00001-1
 J. P. Beebe.....11111 1111-10 | Jas. Garden.....10000 00000-1
 John Beebe.....10000 1001-4 | E. Beebe.....10011 10011-6

L. Mead.....01111 0100-6 | C. H. Hoopes.....11000 0100-4
 A. Worral.....11110 1101-8 | P. Cary.....10110 1010-5

D. Johnson.....11011 0111-8 | L. Kearns.....01010 11110-6
 L. Fritch.....11110 1101-8 | R. Burns.....01010 10000-3

L. Eperthener.....11011 1111-9 | Geo. Kearns.....01000 10101-3
 A. Dugan.....00101 10101-5 | A. Todd.....00000 00000-0

W. Burns.....11010 01001-5

The medal was won by J. P. Beebe, and he was challenged by Fritch to shoot for it again on next Thursday. Will let you know the result.

YOUNG GUNNER.

STATE MEDAL SHOOT.—Hurlingham Park, Detroit.—The following is the score for the Michigan State Medal:

J. V. D. Eldridge.....11111 11110-10 | E. S. Barbour.....11111 00111w
 E. H. Gillman.....11011 11011w | Cook Cousins.....10111 10w

Goff Stanton.....11110 10w | J. K. P. Nowell.....10w

First sweep.
 Gillman.....11111-5 | Eldridge.....11111-5

Cousins.....11111-5 | Brown.....10110-3
 Stanton.....11110-4

Gillman and Cousins divided after shooting out Eldridge.

Second sweep.
 Cousins.....10111-4 | Gillman.....11111-5

Stanton.....01100-2 | Brown.....10100-2
 Eldridge.....11111-5

Ties shot off and Eldridge wins.

Third sweep, miss and go out.
 Gillman.....0 | Eldridge.....1111111-7

Cousins.....1111110-6 | Barbour.....10
 Stanton.....1111110-6

KANSAS CITY.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—The regular monthly club match for the medal took place recently at the exposition shooting ground. The day was dark but otherwise pleasant, and an unusual attendance of spectators.

Ten single rises, 21 yards, club rules.

McGee.....01110 1011-7 | Fredericks.....11011 01110-7
 Werk.....11111 1111-9 | Stark.....10111 10110-6

Miles.....11111 1011-9 | Underwood.....11111 1111-8
 Hall.....10000 0101-4 | Caven.....01111 01111-7

Ties on 9, 26 yards.
 Werk.....110-2 | Miles.....111-3

Miles wins the medal.
 L.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—The following score was shot between Mr. N. E. Barnes and Capt. B. F. Buzard, for the champion badge, Mr. Barnes holding the badge. H. & T. traps; 28 yards rise:

Barnes.....11000 10110 11111-10
 Buzard.....11110 10011 10110-10

Ties on 10.
 Barnes.....01111-4 | Buzard.....11011-4

Ties on 4.
 Barnes.....11111-5 | Buzard.....10001-2

H. CARTER.

DAVENPORT, IOWA.—We had a glass ball match here to-day, the losing side to pay for balls. Following are the scores:

G. Schade.....10001 00000-2 | E. Berg.....01111 11110-8
 A. Rider.....11001 1111-8 | H. Young.....00111 01111-7

J. Dow.....01100 1101-6 | A. Golden.....01000 00100-2
 J. Golden.....11011 1110-7 | J. Reading.....01100 01010-4

Total.....23 | Total.....21
 P. S.

THE STANDARD BORE.—Louisville, Ky.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—At regular meeting of the Louisville Gun Club, held March 8, 1878, I was instructed to inform you of the action of our club in passing the following resolution: That at all matches between its members the 12 bore guns are the standard, and the 10 bore guns handicapped two yards in all single and double matches. W. J. WATKINS, Sec'y.

SHOOTING MATCH.—A glass ball shooting match, for a purse of \$20, took place at Silver Flume, Colorado, Saturday afternoon, with the following result:

G. Wadge.....00110 01100-4 | A. Squire.....11110 11111-9
 R. Sargent.....10110 1101-7 | H. Stanton.....00001 11011-5

HE KNOWS DR. CARVER'S METAL.—Virginia, Nev.—*Editor Chicago Field*.—It is amusing to read many of the articles which have appeared in the CHICAGO FIELD in regard to the Doctor and his challenges did they but know him, they would talk different.

As for Mr. Martin's challenges of \$100 each, they will never be shot, for the Doctor told me months ago (last Oct.) that he never expected to shoot another match for so little money. When a man has a profession which will pay him on an average, \$50 per day, and stay at home, it would be foolishness for him to run around the country making pigeon matches for \$100 a side. No doubt many will think it "bluff" because Carver talks of shooting for thousands, but they do not know the man.

It looks as though before many years roll around a man will be called a "pot-hunter" or a "murderer" if he should be found with a "scatter gun" in his hand. P. L. S.

LIVE PIGEONS, GLASS BALLS, TRAPS, CHILLED SHOT, AMMUNITION, ETC. Send for price list. E. T. Martin, 79 Clark St., Chicago.—Advertisement.

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Chicago Field.

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N. ROWE, (MOHAWK).....Editor and Manager.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1878.

Meeting of the New York State Association.

A largely attended meeting of the New York Association for the protection of game was held March 11, at the Hotel Brunswick. Hon. Robert B. Roosevelt, the newly elected President, occupied the chair. He suggested the propriety of investing their surplus funds in the purchase of some place in the vicinity of the city, where they could establish themselves as a club and pursue their propensities as sportsmen. The suggestions met with general approval, one member offering to become one of twenty who would subscribe \$500 or \$1,000 each for the purchase of a suitable club house and grounds. Dr. Green moved that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the feasibility of purchasing a suitable piece of property for the purpose, in or near the city, and report at the next meeting. After some discussion between Messrs. Clinton, Gilbert, Fleiss, Luddington and others, Dr. Green accepted an amendment that the matter be made the special order of business for the next meeting, and the members be notified.

Mr. Thomas N. Cuthbert, Secretary, reported that he had received since last meeting a vast number of communications from different states, asking for information in reference to the establishment of game protective associations, as well as briefs to aid existing organizations in enforcing the game laws in their respective localities, all of which had been answered by forwarding promptly the desired information.

The President, in alluding to the question of amendments to the game laws, said the marketmen cordially united with the Fish Cultural Association in requesting that some law be passed for preventing the wholesale destruction of small bass or other fish, taken in nets, and frequently sold as low as fifty cents a bushel. The marketmen did not want these small fish, but were forced to receive them, because they were sent on with other fish. Mr. Cuthbert said the difficulty lay in the fact that laws for the protection of fish were tacked on to all kinds of other laws, and were consequently badly mixed. The remedy lay in having a clear and comprehensive law drawn up by somebody who understood the subject thoroughly, and having it passed separately. The matter was finally referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Game Laws.—*New York Times*.

GAME NOTES.—Cleveland, O.—Editor *Chicago Field*:—I thought I would drop a line to you as an item of news; you, however, might have more in the CHICAGO FIELD than you know what to do with; but reading of others sometimes apprising you of early and late arrivals and departures, thought, if agreeable, I would contribute my mite.

Was out Saturday afternoon and shot two Wilson snipes, in very good condition indeed, something very unusual so very early in the season. On looking over my register, (I formerly was very exact in dates, etc.) find I never shot any here before 14th of March, 1850, then shot five; in 1851, March 14, shot two; then on March 17, 1859, shot twelve snipes, and in the year 1848 killed two snipes Dec. 29, and following Spring, March 25, killed seventeen snipes; that was an exceedingly mild Winter. This present year is somewhat similar; last snipes killed (fifty-seven) was Nov. 20, and as above, killed fifty-eight March 9. I think, perhaps, there might be more killed this week, as the frogs are lively, worms out, and willows out in full buds. Saw and heard quantities of geese flying around us. We have, however, rather poor localities for the latter article—no marshes, etc., and consequently we only see and hear them occasionally; still it shows what time of year is on us. Wish you every success in your very able paper.

JAMES CHUBB.

THE BOSTON SHOW.—We are glad to see the entries for the Boston Show have filled so well, which is but natural, held as the show is under the auspices of the Massachusetts Kennel Club, a club composed of some of the best sportsmen in Massachusetts, gentlemen whose names are well known to the sportsmen of America. In consequence of ill health Dr. Rowe will not be present to report the show for the CHICAGO FIELD, but nevertheless we shall have a full report of it, arrangements having been made with a competent gentleman for it.

QUINCY AND ST. LOUIS.—The Quincy Shooting Club having won the recent match with the St. Louis Gun Club, the latter intend sending a team to Quincy at the time of the meeting of the Illinois State Sportsmen's Association in June next, to shoot the return match.

HEADQUARTERS.—The Tremont House will be headquarters during the Boston Show. The regular charge has been reduced one dollar a day to those attending the show.

Amusements.

McVICKER'S THEATRE.—"The Celebrated Case," presented by the Union Square Company, of New York, is having a great success. It is, doubtless, a drama of considerable merit, and its style of production is so good that its best points are brought out.

HOOLEY'S THEATRE.—Sothern is here. Those who have heard of his impersonation of the character of "The Crushed Tragedian," should not fail to pay this house a visit. Even at war prices they will have great difficulty in securing a seat, for the crowds that attend to witness the crushing of the tragedian are very large.

HAVEBLY'S THEATRE.—"Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp," has been presented every day this week, and to large houses. The whole presentation was on a grand scale, and the houses were very good.

NEW CHICAGO THEATRE.—Havebly's Minstrels are doing a splendid business with Arlington, Rice, Kemble, Carter, Cashman and Welch in the troupe. The fun has been first-class all through, and the powerful attractions elsewhere have had no deteriorating influence on the houses.

Game and Shooting.

Sportsmen's Fixtures for 1878.

New Hampshire State Sportsmen's League, Manchester, April 2.
New York State Association for the Protection of Fish and Game, Buffalo, May 1.
Connecticut State Sportsmen's Association, Hartford, May 15.
Iowa State Sportsmen's Association, Des Moines, May 28.
Nebraska State Sportsmen's Association, Fremont, May 21 and 22.
National Sportsmen's Association, Wilkesbarre, Pa., June 11.
Illinois State Sportsmen's Association, Quincy, June 11.
The Pennsylvania State Association for the Protection of Game and Fish—Wilkesbarre, June 11.
Ohio State Sportsmen's Association, Cincinnati, June 15.
Tennessee State Sportsmen's Association, Nashville, Dec. 2.
Wisconsin State Sportsmen's Association.
Massachusetts State Sportsmen's Association—at call of President.
Missouri State Sportsmen's Association.

[Written expressly for the CHICAGO FIELD.]

BUCK, BEAR AND BUFFALO;

OR,

Hunting from Lakes to Ocean.

BY MNEMOSYNE,

Author of "The One-Armed Trapper," "The Home of the Bear," "The Caribou Hunter," "In Prairie and Woodland," etc., etc.

CHAPTER XV.

HOME AGAIN.

"'Tis hard to be parted from those
With whom we forever would dwell;
But bitter indeed is the sorrow that flows,
When perhaps we are saying farewell—forever!"

—MRS. ORT.

Even when their feelings were the most getting the mastery a shrill whistle rang over the prairie and they dashed forward to look upon a surprising and altogether unexpected tableau—Hank and the Indian sitting side by side in the most amicable fashion—and to hear in the richest of brogues:

"Be the soul of Saint Patrick an' it war most stranglin' me yer war wid the dirty ashes; bad cess till them."

"Mickey!" exclaimed all, "You back agin! We thought you dead!"

"An' the same till yerselves!" with a great exhibition of ivory. "But divil a dead am I, though head an' it's a narrer escape I had fram gittin' in purgatory an' niver a praste to say masses fer me poor soul."

Even hunger was for a time ignored to hear his story, and which, stripped of unnecessary verbiage, can be condensed into a brief space and run thus:

His mule had become frightened, could not be restrained and dashed along with the buffaloes until they at last separated from him and the obstinate brute (still continuing its headlong career) became tired, and was surrounded and stopped by what he took to be a party of hostile Indians, but which turned out an encampment of friendly squaws. According to his view of the matter he had considerable fun while in their company, though his modesty was severely shocked at the fashion in which they changed his clothing for that of a brave and wanting him to marry the whole of them, and he was very much alarmed for fear the episode might come to the ears of his "darlint." However (as he said), he became "tired of their crazy, black she-divils, and of he wanted to play Brigham Young would pick his company," and stealing a pony deserted at the first opportunity and after many hair-breadth escapes reached the old camping ground, and having taken "a drap too much" was celebrating when Hank pounced upon him "loike a bat upon a June-bug," and came very near leaving the adorable Kathleen without a lover.

"Well, there is one consolation," said Mart reflectively, "that mule will never run away again, unless the running is done within a wolf."

"An' did they ate up me ould mule?" exclaimed Mickey, raising his hands in holy horror. Then, changing expression and tone he continued: "But it saryes him right, the spalpeen, fer an obstinate ould divil that he was, and as fer the wolves, be the piper that played before Moses an' they'll git the worst of it, fer avin if he's dead he'll kick the ribs out of them, so he will."

"That reminds me," said Mart Lester, "that our ribs need something to keep them from falling together, and if you learned any new culinary accomplishments from your squaw wives, suppose you give us a touch of your quality."

There was feasting and laughing upon the prairie that night, Mickey contributing far more than his quota by retelling incidents of his short sojourn among the wives and daughters of the children of the wilderness—the wild Arabs of the American deserts.

"And," said Mart, "we fancied you were old 'Lo' himself when we saw you strutting around the camp-fire."

"An' its mighty low I war anyhow whin Hank came lapin' out upon me from the bushes loike a great bar an' rollin' me over in the ashes."

"And which of all your sweethearts did you like the most?" queried Charley.

"Ugh!" answered Mickey, making up a face like one who had taken an exceedingly mouthful of green persimmons, "to talk ov lovin' thim—the hay'thin naygars!"

"But you hugged and kissed them, Mickey?" teased Charley.

"An' is it me you think would kiss the blubberin' lips ov the loikes of thim! Shure, an' an't they a crass between the 'Fwat is it?' I saw in Barnum's ould museum and the 'Giptian mummy! Be me sowl an' it makes me sick, so it does, to avin think ov that same."

"Then they hugged and kissed you."

Just then Mickey had sudden business in another part of the camp. It was a sore subject with him, and every time it was broached the Irishman turned up missing. Yet it was a standing subject for jokes and kept them in good humor, especially as Mickey (forgetting himself) would now and then belch out some new and most ludicrous phase of the savage "Intertainment."

After a couple of days given to repairs and recuperation hunting again engrossed their attention; the experience of the past aided very much toward success, and the "bags" made would have astonished many who fancy themselves perfectly au fait in such matters and unconquerable as Nimrod.

The buffaloes were not neglected. Many a noble bull fell, and now that they began to calculate upon returning homewards, the scalps and horns of the best were secured to decorate their "dens," to astonish their friends and be practical illustrations when, Othello-like, recounting their adventures and "the dangers they had passed" to win some charming Desdemona.

But buck and grizzly also varied the programme, and at odd hours the famous "painters" fell before their unerring aim, and the shaggy skins of black and cinnamon bears were added to the packs, while teeth and claws were collected in sufficient quantity to have made the fortune of the braves of an entire tribe and consumed them with jealousy.

As for Mickey, he gave his whole attention to the slaughtering of wolves. He had never forgiven them the devouring his mule,

even though, as he often asserted, they must have had the worst of it, "fer ther creacher was nigh onter er thousand years old, and tuffer nor glue an' injun rubber an' bull's hides all biled together." But notwithstanding the punishment received in the eating (according to his idea), he unceasingly hunted for and shot them and literally lumbered the prairie with their bodies.

Moving about at pleasure and keeping out of the way of the large buffalo seeking parties—in fact, taking advantage of them, game was found in abundance, and they could pleasantly have passed the remainder of their lives in that paradise of sportsmen, had not a strain upon the heartstrings kept drawing them back to civilization, and had not Winter shown signs of coming in earnest.

"This isn't a place to linger," said Dick Thomas, as upon rising one morning he found the ground covered with snow and the wind whistling fiercely from the North.

"Yer roight," answered Mickey. "The leprachaus will dance no more among the flowers this season, an' the shedin at home will be wantin' fixin' up an'—"

"And Kathleen will want somebody to keep her warm," laughed Mart.

"Och! murther, don't be talkin' ov it! I kin fale her a dancin' on me heart avin now, the swate little girleen. But shure an' it's a cloak an' a robe ov wolf skins she shall be afther havin'. She's won ov the quollity, is Kathleen, divil a ha'porth else."

Hank was called into the council, as his experience was worth all the theories in the world.

"It won't be very long," he said, "berfore everything will be all frozen up and covered with snow, and unless yer calkulate ter make er gopher and stay until Spring, it am time yer war gettin' erway from here."

"Not any of that in mine, if you please," replied Mart, "and I for one will go for home."

"When yer see er snow storm hererbouts yer may be sartin ther's er good many clus by. But we kin kinder hunt on the way—eruff anyhow ter keep from starvin', and then it would only be neighborly ter stop and see our friends."

"An' have a dance? Hurrah!" shouted Mickey, throwing up the little that remained of his hat.

"And repeat your experiences with your numerous squaw wives? O! Mickey, what a Mormon you are."

"An' don't it prove I'm more man thin if I stuck till one jst!" answered Mickey, grinning and retreating.

Fortunately, falling in with a party of friends, they secured the means of transporting the "plunder" that had become cumbersome—the "huffs, horns an' hides," as the Irishman irreverently designated the magnificent trophies of the chase, and started upon the return trip, each somewhat anxious to again hear one sweet voice and look upon one sweet face.

As they came within close proximity to the settlements the fear of hostile Indians vanished, and no watch was kept. And so one night when they were suddenly aroused from their heavy slumbers by strange sounds and the brushing into the tent of a black object, they were taken at a disadvantage, and at first fancied their scalps might be in danger. And it did not entirely relieve them from apprehension when the intruder proved to be a black bear.

"Howly mother ov Moses!" exclaimed Mickey, as he saw by the light of the camp fire the great head, the little, sharply twinkling eyes, the open mouth and protruding tongue, "and it's the ould divil himself come afther the poor soul ov me," and he began a hasty retreat.

But very short work would have been made of the intruder had he not stood as it were guard over the guns—stood so that it would be impossible to reach them without passing him, and to risk wounds and perhaps life in such a cause would have been folly.

Then the wit of Mart Lester came to their relief, and the tide of battle was soon turned.

"Give me that bottle," he said in a whisper to Hank, who was nearest to him.

The request was complied with—the cork drawn, and cautiously advancing Mart liberally sprinkled the contents over the shaggy coat of their unwelcome guest. The brute started back with a savage snort and growl. It was a reception he had not calculated upon, and before he could recover from surprise Mart had lighted a handful of bark and tossed upon him and instantly a light blaze arose, and the bear ran howling away, enveloped in flame.

"Guess," said Mart, pleased with the success of his ruse, "he wont trouble us again to-night."

"Fwat was it?" asked Mickey, sticking his head out from beneath the blanket.

"Nothing, only I happened to think of the spirits of turpentine we had to clean our guns, and thinking we wouldn't want it any more, concluded to turn master Bruin into living fireworks."

"An' ye did it shure."

Hank laughed far more loudly than was his custom, and said: "I've seen many er bar fight but nothin' like that. It puts me in mind of er little Frenchman that was erlong with me once, and when er bar cotched and hugged him jest rubbed his eyes and nose full of snuff. That was er astonished bar, but nothin' ter be compared ter this one. Wal, it am allers best ter keep yer head when thar am any trouble."

It was a fitting ending to their hunting—was, in fact, the last adventure. A couple of days later they were among friends and making glad the hearts of the Bois Brule girls. But other and dearer forms were beckoning them forward, and delay became irksome.

The hardest of all was to separate from Hank. A more honest or true-hearted man could scarcely have been found. But he was made very happy by the present of one "of them ar new fangled guns" and everything tending to a hunter's outfit, and would in the hereafter become a lion among the scouts on Red River.

Pleasantly passed the days upon the homeward journey—pleasantly and swiftly boat and steam engine whirled them along, and at last the spires of the Garden City rose to their view.

"Shall we ever have another such glorious time?" said Dick Thomas sadly.

"An' you have me along," put in Mickey impudently, "ye may be sartin ov it."

"But," said Charley, "shall we hunt in the same FIELD?"

"Yes," I presume," answered Mart, "I presume we shall, and yet it all depends whether or no we continue to Row(e) in the same boat. But here we are home at last. For a time at least all our hunting will be confined to dears."

THE END.

Mosquito Bites From Florida.

EDITOR CHICAGO FIELD:—I should have written you ere this had I not been absent almost continuously on shooting trips to the Indian River and elsewhere. You know, from experience, how hard it is to find time to write while in camp—generally speaking, and how much that difficulty is enhanced by this "constitutionally tired" climate, you may imagine. I have not made a specialty of any particular game, but "cut loose" at everything presenting itself. During my first trip to Indian River the sport was about equally divided between snipes, quails and deer, with an

occasionally sprinkling of turkeys. The second trip was devoted almost exclusively to deer and bears. The distance from Spruce Creek to the "haul-over," a head of the Lagoon, is about forty miles. This is overcome by the aid of a sail boat; passing through the Halifax and Hillsboro Rivers to Mosquito Lagoon, at the lower end of which, and divided from it by a narrow neck of land, is Indian River. The trip to this point alone is worthy of full description, but I refrain from giving any save the general items of interest, "accident and incident," and that an abundance of the former existed you may rest assured.

The Halifax River is considered difficult of navigation, and justly so; but when the "Inlet" is crossed and New Smyrna left behind, the Hillsboro appears in its full glory of islands, creeks and bays. The water "whispers hope to the eye" and breaks it to the well-keel. As for a channel it may be said that one exists, but the Hibernian's traditional insect is not less difficult to find.

Still the journey is made with comparative comfort, until what is known as the "Devil's Elbow" is reached. This is at the commencement of Mosquito Lagoon, in fact the entrance thereto. It is appropriately named, and one can only regret the singular error of his Satanic Majesty in leaving so useful a portion of his arm, even in this warm climate.

The first point of interest after escaping the "Elbow" is McCarthy's. Mac, is a genial Hibernian, hospitable always and particularly well disposed towards sportsmen. Besides the attractions presented in the shape of good fare, with which his table is loaded, there is another "fair" in his household, wearing, as my friend the "Squire" would say, "gaiters and a pull-back." At this point (I mean McCarthy's, of course) the fishing is more than good, and the ducks numerous. "Gator," *The Country* contributor, finds that particular place peculiarly suited to his tastes, etc., why or wherefore we do not insinuate.

The Lagoon is from two to three miles wide and twelve in length; its shores are sparsely settled and good shooting may be had on either side. Dummit's Grove, the property of Geo. W. Schuyler, is situated at its headwaters. "Gator" and myself sojourned there for the space of two weeks, hospitably entertained by the proprietor and his charming lady. The ducks were slaughtered and several deer badly frightened. Mr. S. and myself started one morning for Sand Point, twelve miles south, in a small sail boat, and before reaching home were fully initiated into the mysteries of "polling," a species of native accomplishment, the acquaintance of which becomes a necessity in water traveling here. We reached the point safely, and at 3:30 P. M. started for the grove. When in the middle of Indian River a perfect calm ensued and we were treated to several hours experience in "polling," the delightful native mode of progression I have mentioned. Before reaching Black Point, eight miles from home, darkness set in and the rain came down, as it only does in this moist climate. Our flask of "comfort" was soon exhausted, and after losing our way at least a dozen times, we reached the house at 2:30 the following morning, entirely satisfied that rain, darkness and the lack of wind were quite enough to justify the light language used, though it was both loud and deep.

At Sand Point one catches an occasional glimpse of the noble red man. The remnant of Seminoles still remaining in Florida are to be found in the Everglades. Their dress is partially civilized in its nature, many dressing in a manner similar to the natives, or "Crackers." Silk hats are in demand, and tight fitting boots command a ready sale among them. Furs, fish, etc., are used as barter. Popular report has it that slavery still exists in their villages, which are said to harbor murderers and thieves from all parts of the state. This, of course, is mostly conjecture, as there are few white men who have had an opportunity to inspect their lodges. *A propos* of this subject, while going through the "Haul-over," on our way down we came across a solitary individual of mild aspect, in a sail boat, armed with a rifle, knife and revolver, who in the course of a conversation, incidentally mentioned that he was the man who had recently killed two men in Jacksonville—one of them a policeman—and was taking a trip into the Okechobee country, not, as he said, from fear of the authorities, but because the relatives of his late victims were so unreasonable as to contemplate remedying the deficiency of the Florida law by an application of the "shot-gun policy." We wished this mild, itinerant arsenal adieu as speedily as possible.

The Indians give, or are said to give, a very muddy tradition, showing how the different races or colors of men came into existence. When the Great Spirit made the earth he made three men, all of whom were white. He led them to the edge of a lake and bade them go in and bathe; one obeyed instantly and came forth fairer than before; another hesitated and the water became muddied, which caused him to reappear copper colored; the last failed to leap until the water was black with mud, and came forth black. He then gave them three packages to choose from. The black man chose the heaviest; the copper colored the next, leaving the lightest for the white man. When opened the contents were as follows: The first contained spades, hoes, etc.; the second hunting and fishing implements and war clubs; the third pens, ink, paper, knowledge—the foundation of the white man's superiority.

Since my return from the St. John's we have had remarkable success with deer, having killed eighteen in four weeks. In driving the country for deer we accidentally found a large piece of meadow within fifteen miles of Enterprise, which was literally alive with snipes, mostly Wilson's. The sport was fast and furious for several hours. Since that time about (Jan. 20) we have shot over the same ground four times, and my diary shows a total of 208 snipes killed. This would prove a matter of astonishment to our Jersey, "Pine Brook" friends. I thought while bathing in snipe gore of the pleasure I could experience were my friends "Black Ned," "Gopher" and others but present. And this reminds me that in looking over my file of the *CHICAGO FIELD* during a leisure hour, I noticed a communication from "Mignon" in your issue of May 19, last, under the caption, "Cruising in Florida," in which he indulges in various statements entirely at variance with my personal experience, and perhaps calculated to discourage some ambitious Nimrod from taking a crack at Florida game. He says "the sportsman will find quails in abundance I think, but the dense palmetto bush [scrub I presume he means] will kill more dogs than the sportsman can birds." It is enough upon this head for me to say that I have hunted the entire eastern coast of Florida, and several counties to be heard from inland, and consider the statement as utterly absurd. During the present Winter I have used, in conjunction with a friend, two dogs—a Dilley pointer pup and my own native setter "Rogue"—since Nov. 1 continuously on quails and snipes. At the present writing they are in better working condition than they were when I left New York in the Fall, and we have killed at a moderate estimate four hundred quails and as many snipes.

"Mignon" probably used some of the "pocket edition," toy dogs we read of. Again he says: "Duck shooting here from a stand must be at daylight or dusk, going and returning from the feeding grounds. Of sea ducks I saw but few, and they were very wild. River ducks more abundant, but lean and thin." This is equal to the quail experience and quite as correct. He also deigns to notice "deer, bears, wild cats and 'possum;" the first, he says, "may be killed by enduring mosquitoes, wading

bogs and swearing through palmetto brush, but the ardent sportsman who would do this, could kill deer in almost any wild place in the United States; as for me, I don't care for this sort of sport. Evidently he does not, and is therefore incompetent to advise. Ye gods! of what species of the genus hunter is the man who considers "coons" and "gophers" game? His description of the east coast is also faulty in the extreme, and betrays lack of observation, to say the least. I have touched upon this, from the fact that a seeming injustice has been done, and that my fellow sportsmen may be set right. In this connection suffer me to remark that the *Florida Star*, published at New Smyrna, is a reliable sheet, and furnishes valuable information regarding the eastern coast. Any who choose to write to the editors, Messrs. Coe & Son, will receive a courteous reply and any information it may lie in their power to give. In a few weeks I propose taking an extended trip along the coast, probably as far as St. Lucie. I had hoped that "Black Ned" would have been able to accompany me, but he informs me of his inability to leave the North at this time. I must therefore lose his genial presence. However, as he would say in the language of his favorite author, *Hic jam salutaris*.

I wish to add a word of congratulation to "Kit Killbird." His spike dissertation reads well, and is in my opinion simply a truthful analysis of the entire spike collar question. For old and stubborn brutes the collar may be used with beneficial effect, but on an intelligent, well-bred pup never, or at least but with the "exception."

I have also read with interest Mr. Burges' article on the "Constitution of Blue Bloods," in the course of which he insists that in-breeding is not injurious to dogs, and that they do not deteriorate thereby. I should like at some future time to ventilate my individual views on this point, having made a somewhat careful research, and believing his theory to be erroneous. At all events, a discussion of the vexed question by some of your valuable correspondents would be productive of great good. "Black Ned" and yours devotedly are about completing the purchase of another shooting box in this country, and nothing would afford us greater pleasure than to receive and entertain a deputation of Nimrodian friends and *FIELD* colleagues during the Winter of '78 and '79. I trust to see a gathering of old faces at the New York Bench Show in May when I return, and we shall then extend a *viva voce* invitation. What havoc could we work—yourself, "Gopher," and friend Dilley with Ranger, the magnificent, and "Black Ned's" Mohawk (magnificent in embryo).

As "Kit K." truly remarks, we do "suck oranges" and dilate on the juiciness of the "only" paper, even "way down upon the Swanee River." Its arrival is full of pleasurable anticipations, and our expectations are ever realized.

THE JUDGE.

Another Goes for Recapper.

EDITOR *CHICAGO FIELD*:—I have been on the point of writing for a number of days some sort of a reply to "Recapper," who so invidiously writes up gun matters for your worthy paper.

Lest "Recapper" think me rather abrupt in my style, I will preface by stating that I have no intention of giving offense, but write plainly as my observation and experience dictate.

"Recapper" boldly says to "Decapper" in your issue of the 23d ultimo, that English guns at equal prices with American guns will beat the latter all hollow for material, workmanship and finish. Upon the last point "Recapper" and I agree, upon the other two points I will champion American guns, and I say as boldly to "Recapper," "you know not whereof you write."

As to the materials in American guns at prices varying from one hundred dollars upward, in the majority of them, if I err not, are to be found English wood, barrels and locks, and as many of our American makers import the best of materials, I for one fail to see that "Recapper" sustains his point thus far.

Next in order let us take up the workmanship matter, by which we mean all labor put upon a gun in contradistinction to finish, or mainly the fitting of the action and the boring or patterning of the barrels. My observations and experience incline me strongly in favor of such American guns over English guns, as are built by builders having but a limited trade who, being thoroughly reliable and experienced men, are enabled to, and do, give their personal supervision to the building and fitting of each and every gun which they turn out, and knowing to whom each gun is going, take great professional pride in their records, and their principal materials being the best obtainable from the most reliable of English dealers, their work does stand the test as I know and compares favorably with the best of English work.

I am now the owner of a two hundred dollar American gun, by a maker whose name I doubt if "Recapper" is familiar with, which fills my bill, and had this gun been finished (i. e. engraved, browned, etc.) at the hands of a Scott or a Purdy at a cost of say fifty dollars, it would be equal in all respects to any \$300 English gun I have yet seen.

I have read "Recapper's" gun criticisms in some cases where I thought he must certainly have an object to bias his pen, and in other cases where I thought the *nom de plume*, "Recapper," was a misnomer, so to speak.

In his writings of a recent date he states that having seen guns of all makes he pronounces without appeal the joint check and compensator, of Clark and Snider's guns, to be the best. I will take issue on the joint check only, agreeing that the compensator is an inferior matter. If "Recapper" has seen them all he forgets (to put it mildly, or his judgment and mine are sadly at variance) some three different builds of guns, and there may be others which in my judgment are fully equal to Clark & Snider's in this point, if not in all, viz.: Chas. Green's guns, Rochester, N. Y.; Nichols & Lefever's guns, Syracuse, N. Y., and the Fox gun, Chicopee Falls, Mass., and theirs are simply perfect for the object intended.

My experience with foreign and domestic guns has been not a little. I have owned two of each, commencing with an English gun and ending with an American gun as mentioned (English-American would be more correct).

To those who think we must depend upon England I would instance three American guns at Chetopa, Kansas, owned by the Fraunberg Bros., and A. A. Case, Esq., each gun costing less than \$150 new—all having stood from three to five years of the hardest kind of usage, and I speak honestly from memory when I say that not five dollars expense per gun has been laid out in repairs, and the guns were when I last saw them in good serviceable condition. Can English guns at any price do more?

Then if in America guns are built which in material, workmanship and shooting powers are equal to the best, as I claim, and if it is found by experience that they do successfully withstand the same amount of use as the best, which I also claim, what a surprising inconsistency is it to derogate American work, and wherein is an English gun at any price preferable for actual work? Let "Recapper" answer.

For every American gun which shall be named by "Recapper" which has failed from use, before the average time, I will pair with it an English gun, and for every American gun which he shall name which has burst or broken down from defective workmanship I will give it an English mate, and the prices of the latter shall average 25 per cent. greater than the former.

We claim to be an exceptionally independent people in our

speech and actions—in our speech we are amazingly so—likewise are we in our actions, to judge from our Fifth Avenue belles who elope chronically with the count's barber, lord's butcher or baron's peddler; but, levity aside, it occurs to me that we are more of a toadying class than it is pleasant to acknowledge, and asking "Recapper" to apply the foregoing generally, rather than personally, I leave it to be inferentially construed as to my opinion of why so many ignore home workmen.

Once for all I say, go to some such maker as I have suggested, and at a price from \$100 to \$300 you will get an article fully equal, lacking the finish, to an imported article which would cost you from 25 to 30 per cent. more, and what your gun lacks in finish will be doubly offset by cash saved in the purchase.

Mr. Editor, the tone of my letter is conservative—in it there are no flowery encomiums on American guns to contrast with exaggerated criticisms of English guns. One will average as well as the other in actual work, with price to recommend the former, and "finish" to recommend the latter, and unless "Recapper" can advance sounder and less invidious rules, I fail to see how he can increase his converts among those who will take the trouble to examine into the correctness of my statements.

BELL MUZZLE.

Chilled and Soft Shot.

EDITOR *CHICAGO FIELD*:—The advantages of chilled over and above the common soft lead shot, I cannot speak of by my own experience, although I am well acquainted with sportsmen who have used the English chilled shot in several shooting seasons, and to a large amount; and who have frequently informed me of their excellent success in their use.

I have formerly, and also during this period, entertained the opinion that the chilled shot had not the balance of superiority in its favor when all the merits and demerits of both kinds of shot were fairly tested. And my reasons at that time were: First, That the soft shot striking a bird or animal of any kind, would, from its softer nature, more naturally flatten, thereby making a more ragged and a larger hole, consequently producing more favorable results for this reason, and, second, That we should probably lose in penetration from the loss of momentum in the use of the chilled, all that we should gain by extra penetration from the hardness of the shot, knowing that a certain per centage of antimony was mixed with the lead in the manufacture of the chilled, which is known to possess a lighter specific gravity than the common lead shot. I had formerly supposed that there was a considerable amount of antimony mixed with the lead, but I have subsequently ascertained that the quantity used was quite small.

Mr. Knowlton in his article in the *Forest and Stream*, under date of Feb. 7, states that he has weighed the two kinds of shot and finds that an ounce of soft shot gives 440 and that of the chilled 422 grains, showing a difference of only 18 grains, which he thinks is quite a loss, but which is according to my computations only 4 1/2 per cent. loss, which amount divided among the 400 pellets to the ounce, say of No. 8 shot, would not materially effect its penetration. From another reliable source I find that in the Tatham chilled No. 7 shot, a difference is shown of only nine pellets per ounce, which in the ratio to the 291 pellets, as contained in their printed table, shows a loss of only 3 per cent. It would probably be safe therefore in calling the difference in the weight or density of the two kinds of shot not more than 4 per cent. One other objection has been raised in this vicinity to the chilled shot (more I think from theory than from experimental knowledge) is, that the hardness and unyielding nature of the chilled must necessarily be a severe test at least, if not quite an injury to the muzzle of the gun, as it makes its exit from the barrel. Especially so in the use of the choke bore, where the shot pellets are supposed to be severely jammed.

I have very great doubts about the truth of this theory, and although I do not know that we "can rise to explain" the facts in the case satisfactorily, there having been so little experience with the chilled on this side of the water; still, I cannot entertain the belief that there is any particular injury in this direction, until further evidence substantiates it.

Those who theorize as above, against the hard shot, advocate the use of the soft, *per contra*, it being more yielding, they say, and consequently does, to a great extent, if not wholly, take off the strain that is made with the chilled for the benefit of the gun. My own opinion in this matter is, that even the soft shot does not mar or jam the pellets to that extent that many sportsmen imagine. If some sportsman who can spend the time, and has a convenient place to prove it, will take an empty flour barrel having one head intact, filling it with snow moderately compressed, and will shoot into the barrel, say at 40 yards distance, with No. 8 shot, with a choke-bore gun, I think the matter would thus be demonstrated. I do not think the shot would go through the snow and strike the head of the barrel. The snow could easily be melted with warm water, the shot secured and examined with a glass and the result known. If the snow should not prove practical or is inconvenient, use a few pounds of cotton batting or wool instead.

I am of the opinion that the shot obtain a greater injury, (if any,) at the "choke in the chamber of the barrel" than from the muzzle choke, as the contraction there is generally the greatest. This matter can also be tested by the plan proposed, in shooting the un-choked or cylindrical barrel, where the choke is only in chamber. Now if it can be positively proved that there is considerable marring and injury made to the soft shot in the manner already named, then we have cause to believe that our practical sportsmen will drop, to a great extent, if not altogether, the use of the soft, and substitute therefor that of the chilled.

I am told by my friends who have had a full and extended trial in the use of the chilled, that they find not only an improvement in their shooting at game, but at target practice also. That they obtain better patterns, more pellets, and the shot are more evenly spread on the targets. The latter point they say is always specially noticeable. On account of these reports I am strongly inclined, against my antecedent prejudice, to adopt the use of the chilled shot in my shooting in the future. My inclination to this change is greatly enhanced by having seen within a few days some of the chilled shot manufactured by Tatham & Sons, New York, which shows not only a superior finish but an evenness in size and excellence in general appearance which, to my mind, excels that of the English make. I cannot speak of any other manufacture of chilled shot in this country, not having had the pleasure of examining them. For one, I am greatly rejoiced to see that our countrymen can and do excel their English cousins in most all the work in the manufacturing line that they undertake, and I consider that this is another "feather in the cap" of our home manufactories.

There is a matter in the article referred to in the *Forest and Stream*, to which statement I can only reply in the words of another, "I object." The author says: "Do away with the black lead polish which so fouls the gun and taints the game, and the old-fashioned lead shot is good enough."

Now we, down at the old Bay State, think that the small quantity of plumbago used in the polish of the shot does not foul the gun. Many, *per contra*, think that it lubricates and cleans the barrels. As to the taint spoken of, we are inclined to answer with all due respect that "Taint so." Send along any game bird

so tainted down to the Hub and we will pay the regular price for them*
BOSTON.

Binocular Shooting.

CHEMICS' VIEWS.—Canton, Ohio.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—Mr. Van Dyke has raised an interesting question in his letter on "Binocular Shooting," published in your last. There are, however, one or two points which I should like to dwell on that may possibly prove of interest to your readers.

It is of course well known to everybody that the optic nerves conveying impressions from the two retinas to the brain cross each other on the way, and I believe that physiologists are now unanimously of the opinion that the individual nerve fibres from "corresponding points" of the two retinas join at this crossing point, so that only a single impression can proceed from this point to the brain. If the two eyes be directed at any small mark, then the points on the retinas where the images of the mark fall will be "corresponding points." But it is not necessary that both eyes should be directed at the same mark at the same time—they may be directed at two different ones; now the effect of the junction of the nerve fibres will be that only one of these marks can be seen at the same time—not both, for the images of the two marks fall on "corresponding points" of the retinas.

This may easily be shown to be the case, whatever the explanation may be, in several ways. If one-half of a sheet of paper be painted blue and the other half yellow, and another sheet be held at right angles to the first, on the dividing line between the colors, and passing between the eyes so that the right eye can only see the yellow half and the left the blue, the resulting color seen will not be a mixture of the two—green—but blue and yellow will be seen alternately or only one of them.

A still better example, and one which approaches the case of a gun, is to roll a piece of paper into a tube about an inch wide and a foot long, and to look through it with one eye, say the left; then hold a sheet of white paper at right angles to the tube, touching its right hand side close to the further end. If now both eyes be directed toward some distant object it will appear to be seen through a round hole in the paper, apparently with both eyes. All the paper around the hole will be clearly visible, and if attention be directed to the paper across the hole it will suddenly appear, and the distant view will be blotted out. I am indebted for the above experiment to a correspondent of "Nature." The distant view through the hole is the one which is most easily seen, as the eyes are focused to it; the near view of the paper across the hole requires a little effort to see.

If now paper with writing on it be substituted for the plain white paper, the writing will at times be visible across the distant view, but any part or the whole of it may be made to disappear by intense attention on the distant view which the writing obscures, for it will be noticed that when the writing is seen the parts of the distant views behind the strokes are hidden.

From the above experiments several conclusions can be drawn: Firstly, that of the two pictures that are imprinted on the retinas, when the two eyes are looking at different objects, only one can be seen completely at the same time.

Secondly, that if the two objects are at different distances, the one to which the eyes are properly focused will be seen to the exclusion of the other.

Thirdly, that if the object out of focus possesses any sharply defined lights or shadows or outlines, they will be seen, and can only be made to disappear by very close attention directed to the part of the view in focus which they obscure.

Now if these results are applied to the case of a man taking aim with a gun at a distant object, keeping both eyes open (the man in question being right-eyed), he might be expected to get a clear view of the object with his left eye, and at the same time any clearly defined objects seen with his right eye, such as the barrels of the gun would not obstruct his view of the object given him by the left eye. This is found to be the case in practice. The sights being in the direct line of the right eye, and therefore tending to interfere with view in focus of the object given by the left eye, will not be seen at all unless they are very prominent; the ordinary small sight at the end of the barrels of a shot gun will certainly not be seen unless the attention be specially directed to it, but the barrels being outside the "circle of closest attention" will be plainly seen. This "circle of closest attention" has of course a real existence in the *Macula lutea*, or yellow spot of the retina.

The degree to which the salient points of the image out of focus are picked out and rendered visible is most remarkable, and at first sight it looks as if two separate objects were really seen at the same time completely, and that the conclusions drawn above were incorrect. That this is merely illusive a little attention will show. Take the left-hand hammer for instance; on trying to look through it you will apparently see both the hammer and the distant object, but close attention will show that the least conspicuous parts always disappear, and that even the more strongly marked ones will do so when brought within the "circle of closest attention." It should be borne in mind, too, that it is much more difficult to fix the attention by an effort of will on one object to the exclusion of another, than it is to exclude the latter by a natural and unconscious fixation of the attention on the former.

Furthermore, it will be noticed that while any views obtained of the barrels and parts of the gun by the right eye will be faint and shadowy, owing to the most conspicuous parts only being seen, a most clear and distinct view of the barrels will be given by the left eye, perfectly opaque as it must necessarily be, seeing that they fall within the outline of the barrels given by the right eye.

Now the above is a totally different affair to the view given by the right eye alone with the left closed. The object aimed at and the whole field beneath the barrels are completely hidden by the barrels, whereas before they were completely visible. Here I most decidedly join issue with Mr. Van Dyke; if a man shoots a shot gun with both eyes open, his whole attention will be fixed on the object on which his eyes will be focussed, and the greater part of the work will then be done with his left eye, and not with his right, notwithstanding the fact that the gun is brought up in a line from his right eye to the object. I say shot gun advisedly, for if he takes a rifle and has plenty of time to direct his attention to the sights, he will undoubtedly get a view of them, though at the same time he will be able to see the field below the rifle with his left. It is hardly necessary, perhaps, to call attention to the fact that the attention can be altered in this way without altering the focus of the eyes.

Now it appears to me that this extended view given by the left eye is a decided advantage; when a bevy springs, while you are aiming at your first bird, you have a much better view of your intended second, to which you may devote a small fraction of your attention. Also, you have a much better view of the line of flight of the bird you propose firing at; and here lies what seems to me to be the reason that many men find it easier to cut down a bird crossing from right to left, than from left to right. In the first case if he shoots with both eyes open he gets a much better view of the bird than in the second, when the view of the barrels given by both eyes interfere with his aim. If he

closes his left eye, I cannot see any sufficient difference in the two cases, as I do not think that the position of the arms is sufficient to account for it, as I think Col. Hawker suggests.

Another advantage is, that you see the bird with both eyes as long as it is possible to do so, i. e., until the view of the right eye is obstructed by the barrels, and hence the distance of the bird can be better estimated.

The more extended view gives you a better chance of seeing a dog or anything else that may get in your line of fire, and such things have been known to occur. Lastly it is very much more comfortable to hold both eyes open; anyone who has worked much with a monocular microscope, and has been in the habit of closing one eye, and has afterwards adopted the habit of keeping both open, will testify to that, I think.

Whether this method of shooting can strictly be called sighting is another question, seeing that according to my view of the matter you neither see the sight nor the barrels with the eye that is taking aim, the right eye. I am inclined to think that it cannot; and indeed, I am afraid that Mr. Van Dyke in his second letter will in a few words have anticipated my somewhat lengthy objections, in which case I shall only have the satisfaction of agreeing with him.

EDISTO'S VIEWS.—Clarksville, Tenn.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—In your last issue we have a very interesting letter from Mr. Van Dyke upon the subject of Binocular Shooting, in which he says: "If the principle of taking aim is to be adhered to at all, it seems to me the second eye is useless."

There are two reasons, which seem to be good ones, for using both eyes in shooting moving objects with the shot gun. The first and best one is, that an object can be seen far better in this way, and in fact on dark days and in dark places it is sometimes impossible to see a bird at all in its rapid motion, when using one eye. So that although the other eye does not aid us in aiming the gun, it makes the object visible, or at least clearer to view, and thus renders good aim more sure. Mr. Van Dyke says that we do not see the target with the second eye. If he will experiment with a very dim object he will soon see the difference in the use of one and two eyes. Last Summer I tried the experiment in shooting fish with a rifle, and although both of my eyes are strong, I found that in certain positions I could not see the fish at all with one eye, but they were plain when I opened the other.

Another good reason is, that the two eyes enable the shooter to see his game all the time in a crossing shot, when it is necessary to shoot some distance ahead of the object, say a duck or partridge. If only one eye be used the object will frequently become invisible, as its image will fall upon the blind spot of the optic nerve, while the shooter is looking some distance ahead. This may be shown by holding a small object at arm's length, looking with one eye about three or four inches on one side of it. Upon moving the object gently a place will be found where it will become invisible. With two eyes it can be seen all the time.

I might also give as another argument the fact, that with the use of both eyes the parallax angle enables us to judge of the distance of the object receding or approaching us, with an accuracy far superior to that obtained by the use of one eye, depending alone upon perspective. Sometimes the matter of distance is an important item. Of course in using both eyes we really aim with one, and I think the aim is just as true as if we shut one eye. My practice with the rifle, however, has not been sufficient to enable me to speak positively in that department.

We bagged our first couple of snipes on Feb. 23, the advance guard, we hope, of a grand army.

Allow us, in closing, to speak a good word in behalf of the Southern Express Company. They have transported for us a number of dogs, and we have always found them, and their agent here, Mr. Millet, accommodating, reasonable and careful.

H. C. P.'S VIEWS.—Aberdeen, Md.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—I notice an article in your last issue on "Binocular shooting," by "T. S. VanDyke," and though I have no doubt his experience and knowledge of the subject is vastly superior to mine, still I must beg to disagree with him on one or two "points."

In quoting Col. Dodge, he says: "You want the other eye to see the target with," and scouts the idea of this being of any "earthly use." I am unable to say how this may apply to rifle shooting, but with the shot gun it is precisely what you do want, to see the target; or in other words, the game with an eye whose range of vision is not limited by looking over the barrels. I have shot with both eyes open for years, and find it of great advantage in snipe, woodcock and grouse shooting, especially the former, whose erratic dodgings often mislead the "one-eyed" sportsman into thinking he is well "covered" when he (the snipe) has only disappeared from view on account of the visual range being so limited, and an "unaccountable miss" is the result, where the game would often be brought to bag, if the sportsman had had the use of the other eye "to see the target."

Who has not put a charge of shot, intended for a woodcock or grouse, in a small black oak or other tree, under the impression the bird was "beautifully covered," that would have provided an addition to the bag of the "binocular shooter."

Mr. VanDyke advances as proof of his theory that many "A No. 1" shot is one-eyed; so are there many good shots with the old muzzle loader; but that is no reason why we should not adopt the more modern breech-loader. I merely offer this as the result of my experience, and to quote from your Saratoga correspondent, "Straws show which way the wind blows," and I offer my straw to the general stack, and if I offend, cry *Peccavi*.

H. C. P.

SPRING NOTES.—Fox Lake, Illinois.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—Your issue of March 2d is now before me, brimful as usual with those sporting anecdotes that carry the reader on the wing of sympathy to the remote ends of the earth, where he can vividly partake in the flush and excitement of those hunts so graphically described by your able correspondents. Florida "Cracker's" story is especially good. Graphic, yet simple in its style, and shorn of all unnecessary verbiage and painful attempts to be funny, it goes straight to the point, and tersely recites the incidents of the hunt with that charming simplicity which seldom falls to interest the intelligent reader. In writing, avoid pedantry above all things. A little amplification is pardonable to fertile imaginations, and gifted memories are even permitted to quote spontaneous fragments of poetry which sometimes almost irresistibly suggest themselves to illustrate, but more often to "sanctify" the subject. As to the dictionary of "poetical quotations," it is really a dangerous thing at a man's elbow, and weakens his wrist considerably if the intercourse is too frequent. That "Cracker" possesses the genius of narration none will doubt who reads his article, or will fail to admire the unpretending language with which it is written.

By the way, I have sometimes noticed in your columns controversies on the "compositor" business. I know that gentleman is a person to be propitiated, as he carries our reputations in the hollow of his hand. One of them (I say so with diffidence, however, and beg the gentleman's pardon) played a prank on me last time, and reported "wind" instead of "mind," a slight discrep-

ancy, doubtless attributable to his estimate of the writer's abilities, in which case I will venture to suggest that this right of censorship properly belongs to the editorial department, which can ease off as much wind as it has a mind to.

This reminds me of a recent visit to an old lady, whom I found busy cooking white beans. Noticing her sprinkle some salaratus in the mess, the idea seemed so novel that, with child-like simplicity, I ventured to ask wherefore it was thus?

The old lady, with characteristic prudishness, simply coughed twice, and left me to deduce from her benignant smile that this was a chemical process to extract "wind" from beans, not mind, be it clearly understood this time. Moral to this: Had not the compositor better mix a little salaratus in his "pi" when he sets up my contributions in future?

Spring has now dawned upon us in earnest. The warm breeze with its soothing sweetness is now wafting from the sunny South, and little birds of delicate plumage accompany these zephyrs, and are now chirruping on the budding twigs of the reviving trees. Immense flocks of geese are coursing steadily to the North, with that leisurely flight, and deep guttural cadence which always marks their progress. Not a speck of ice remains on these lakes, so that not even the ducks scarcely tarry with us this Spring, but go right on for Lake Winnepeg. Beyond that point our interest begins to flag in all matters pertaining to their comfort. Deputations of ceremony, however, and "freedom of the city" shall be tendered to them on their return journey, when they assume the character of tourists more generally, and identify themselves with guns and gunnery.

CHEAP BREACH-LOADERS.—DECAPPER TO DALE HIGHLAND.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—I have but a short reply to "Dale Highland." He informs me that heavy barrels are "lined," and explains how it is done, etc., and advises me "not to push too far the examination of barrels of English and American guns." Also says that, knowing this fact, should blush to face the intelligent American with an article of the superiority of English guns, etc. Also says: "I would have him believe I am a judge of good barrels." No, "Dale," I have not asked you to believe this, but I flatter myself that I can tell a poor barrel when I see it, and I am not so bound up in any class of guns as to recommend them unless I feel they have value. You say: "Any guns from our American factories will not be found of poor value or trash." Well, "Dale," this depends on what you call trash. I call trash the whole class of breech-loaders which have come from our American factories for the past few years. Such for most part have had what are called "decarbonized steel" barrels. A misnomer and an absurdity. If they were not trash, pray what is? A friend had one burst and nearly blow his head off, and I have heard of others doing likewise. I would as soon put my head behind a piece of lead pipe or gas tubing. You may say, "Dale," that I put too high a value on my head, and should risk such small things for the purpose of upholding my country's goods, and not "blush to face my countrymen," etc. Grant it!

"Decarbonized steel" barrels are now giving way for twists, and I am glad that such is the case. You quote four American makers in your article as being so good, and bring them up after saying that "you have found out that the English guns are not what they are represented to be—perfect." Well, "Dale," I have mentioned the kind of barrels we have been dosed with in the past, and now I would say that I have lately examined one of the very four makes you mention, costing \$50, with twist barrels, and found bad flaws inside them. They were a quality such as are found on muzzle-loaders of about \$10 grade, and I have seen better on English breech-loaders at \$30 and \$35. But I don't condemn the whole class on account of this one gun, as I said in my first article that there were good American guns at medium prices to be found and good English ones too, which latter "Decapper" denied. "Dale Highland" is certainly an advocate of American make, but as he writes from Syracuse, and gives a good puff to the American make of that town, moreover is conversant with the barrel maker who supplies that factory with barrels, and knows just what he writes in his letters, etc., I take his writings *cum grano salis*. I have only a surmise, Mr. Editor, on this point. I don't infer anything. In conclusion, I agree fully with "Dale" that America is going to make good guns and defy competition from abroad, but my articles had not been concerning the future, only of guns as they are and have been. Thanks, "Dale," for your information about gun barrels.

VINDICATES HIMSELF.—Charleston, Illinois.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—If the brotherhood of Elgin, Ill., will read my letter over again, perhaps they can understand it better; it reads thus: Charleston, Ill., Feb. 13, 1878. To wind up the season the last day W. and J. N. C. were out for a day's shooting, also one hundred and fifty sportsmen were out yesterday for a hunt. I would have thought that they would understand the last day of the season to be Jan 31st, and not paid any attention to the date, Feb. 13; the 13th was a typographical error; my letter was dated Feb. 1. The CHICAGO FIELD has less errors than any paper I have ever seen. I will notify the brotherhood of Elgin, Ill., of all violations of the game law, if they will prosecute the violators. I wish the secretary would give me his address.

J. B. DAZEY, P. O. Box 304.

OHIO GAME LAW.—Somerset, Ohio.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—Your sharp but sensible editorial on the Ohio game laws, in the issue of Feb. 16, is sound to the core. Quails were never more plenty than at present in Ohio—not as is alleged by the grangers, in consequence of total prohibition of shooting in 1876, and allowing only one and one-half month in 1877, but solely on account of favorable Summers and open Winters. The laws passed in this state for the protection of the grangers (not the quails) keeps the respectable sportsman from shooting, while the worthless pot-hunter, who has neither property or reputation to lose, can shoot where he pleases, because the farmers are afraid such men will retaliate by burning their barns, etc. OLD GUNNER.

WHAT AILS HIM?—Marshall, Mich.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—Mr. J. F. Garwood, the crack shot of our city, left a few days ago for Monroe, where we understand he is to be treated for a disease of the eyes, which I think must be a case of *amaurosis*.

He has been troubled some time, and as Spring approaches, and as the ice gives away in the lakes and rivers, Mr. J. F. G.'s trouble increased until he could bear it no longer, and I sent to headquarters for a substitute.

The day our friend left some of the boys were at the depot and said "There was a peculiar look in his eye" as he boarded the train with an umbrella under one arm and a gun under the other.

THAT THIRTY QUAIL FEAT.—Marshalltown, Iowa.—*Editor Chicago Field:*—J. H. Bruner, one of our members, completed the job of eating one quail each day for thirty days last Wednesday, and says he never was so quail hungry in his life; offered to go \$50 that he could eat fifteen more in as many days. No takers. Our first club shoot takes place Wednesday, 6th, of which I will send you score.

O. A. JONES, Sec'y.

SIZES OF ENGLISH SHOT.

Lane and Neeham, London.

Size.	No. of pellets to 1 oz.	Size.	No. of pellets to 1 oz.
1 A.	30	3.	177
2 A.	35	4.	218
3 A.	40	5.	280
4 A.	45	6.	330
5 A.	50	7.	402
6 A.	55	8.	468
7 A.	60	9.	540
8 A.	65	10.	630
9 A.	70	Dust.	1,872
10 A.	75		
11 A.	80		
12 A.	112		

Walker, Parker & Co., London.

Size.	No. of pellets to 1 oz.	Size.	No. of pellets to 1 oz.
1 A.	30	3.	177
2 A.	35	4.	218
3 A.	40	5.	280
4 A.	45	6.	330
5 A.	50	7.	402
6 A.	55	8.	468
7 A.	60	9.	540
8 A.	65	10.	630
9 A.	70	Dust.	1,872
10 A.	75		
11 A.	80		
12 A.	112		

Newcastle Chilled Shot.

Size.	No. of pellets to 1 oz.	Size.	No. of pellets to 1 oz.
1.	100	6.	270
2.	118	6*	300
3.	132	7.	370
4.	150	8.	475
5.	200		

WHOSE PATENT IT REALLY IS.—Baltimore, Md.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—We have just received the last copy of your paper, and in it find accusations against us made by some gentleman signing himself "Dale Highland," which, much against our inclinations, we are compelled to notice. The gentleman seems to write in the interest of the Nichols & Lefever gun, but with that we have nothing to do; he can praise them as much as he sees fit, but we cannot allow to pass by the gross misstatement he makes in charging us with infringing upon the patent of Messrs. Nichols & Lefever, and this charge is made in the very breath with which he calls another correspondent, "Recapper," to account for not properly informing himself as to the merits of the various breech actions in use before appearing in print to discuss them, and advise others which to choose. The charge made in this way is inexcusable. The Nichols & Lefever gun, or rather the gun which, according to the patent office record, Dangerfield invented and assigned to Lefever, was patented in 1872. The Snider gun was patented in 1863, Dec. 23, four years prior, which the gentleman could have seen by referring to our catalogue. The claim for a device to take the strain off the hinge by a shoulder upon the hind or hinge lug, in this patent of C. E. Snider, reads as follows:

"The block (or hinge lug) is provided with a hook or shoulder at its near lower corner, which, when the breech of the barrels is thrown up, comes against the head of a bolt attached to the breech-piece and prevents the breech from being opened to any farther extent, the object of this device being to take up a great part of the strain and shock of arresting the motion of the barrels, and to that degree to save the pivot or hinge-pin from strain and danger of breaking or starting."

We could go back still farther, if necessary, and show upon the original action of Mr. Snider, an action very similar to the Dougall, patented in 1863, a similar device for taking the strain off the dropping barrels; in this a pin was used, accomplishing identically the same object the one now used by Nichols & Lefever does. This device was not included in the patent then by Mr. Snider, but we can produce guns made at that time and still used by sportsmen having it upon them. We think the above simple statement sufficient to set us aright in the eyes of sportsmen as to infringement and to controvert Mr. "Dale Highland's" charge. If he is not satisfied, and will apply to Messrs. Nichols & Lefever, he can probably find out "why they allow Clark & Snider to use the hinge check." CLARK & SNIDER.

HIS FIRST SNIPES.—Belleville, Ill., March 4, 1878.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—Friday being a beautiful, warm, bright day, I concluded to look around and see if we could not find one of the advance guard of the army of snipes, soon to be here. A small pond, surrounded by low lying lands and marsh about one mile and a half south of our city, is a good place to look for them when they first arrive, and might be used as a sort of "snipe barometer," for when found there, you can always rely on their being found wherever proper feeding grounds exist.

Arriving on the grounds and slipping a couple of shells loaded with No. 10 shot into the gun, we started to make the circuit of the pond. A black bird skimming by offered a good practice shot, and taking quick aim I fired, and—missed. Recharging the empty chamber and continuing on a couple of hundred yards, a bunch of teal were sprung from amongst a pile of brush, fallen trees, etc., at about twenty-five yards rise. Both barrels were emptied at the nearest one, without any further effect than hastening their flight, although we could see by the sudden start, and a few feathers sailing slowly down that one had been struck, but owing to the distance and size of shot escaped.

A flat marsh, surrounded by corn fields, was now reached, and here I expected to find the snipes if there were any about. Keeping a sharp lookout to the front, the startling "scaipe" of a snipe sounded at my rear; turning quickly I beheld one of our long billed friends making off with due haste. Taking deliberate aim I had the satisfaction of seeing him tumble to the report of my gun. Another was found further on, and was also bagged. The rest of my tramp yielded nothing, and concluding that the couple secured were all that were to be found that afternoon, started homeward.

It will not be long before the Scolopax will be here in numbers, providing the weather continues favorable. A splendid snipe ground may be found within an hour's ride by railroad from here, and our sportsmen will soon be filling shells, to be ready for business. DODGE.

DEATH TO THE POT-HUNTER.—Leavenworth, Kansas.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—In America, where in open season by law all may hunt and shoot game at large, it is impossible to exclude anyone from this sport, whether carried out for the pleasure it affords or for the profits. But I would here make a few suggestions, which if carried out would make it quite unpleasant for "Pot-Hunter." This kind of hunters are found in all sections of the country and their work is therefore most destructive. Especially the gun clubs should, to my judgment, take this matter in hand. Whenever there is a man known that shoots for market, let the club of his town have posters or circulars printed, describing the man and his dogs, and then have these circulars conspicuously posted along the principle country roads and also send a portion to the postmasters in the vicinity for distribution among the farmers; let these circulars plainly state the object.

The farmers in this vicinity are already decidedly opposed to market hunters, while a sportsman can obtain permission from

nearly every farmer to hunt and shoot on his land, for they know it is not the sportsman who destroys the birds, but it is the mercenary "pot-hunter" who slaughters regardlessly.

Perhaps it would cause bad blood in some clubs to carry out such an idea, because some member of the club may himself be a "pot-hunter." But what honorable club would allow such members? Is it not their first duty to expel such a man and to expose him? In this comparatively newly settled state, where there are yet thousands and thousands of acres of land uncultivated, we need not complain about game being scarce. But if the slaughter is to be continued, ere long we will sing the same weary song, that our brother sportsmen of the older states are so loudly yelling to-day!

My ideas may seem absurd, and should be pleased to see better and more practical suggestions on this subject. However, let every true sportsman consider the matter. The "pot-hunter" is a splinter in the eye of every sportsman, and therefore let us find a remedy for the calamity; let us stand together and may the motto be, "Death to the 'pot-hunter'!" NIEL REBAH.

CALIFORNIA QUAILS.—Latrobe, Pa.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—March 24, 1877, a friend arrived from San Francisco, Cal., bringing with him two pairs of Californian quails. He presented me with one pair. I built for them a house six feet long, three feet wide, and three and a half feet high; through it I put a partition, making one end tight, and the other slatted one inch space. In the tight part I put some dry leaves and a small quantity of brush. My birds flourished, giving their peculiar song or call every morning; seemed quite satisfied with their confinement, and became quite tame. The female to-day will sit on your hand and allow you to fondle her, will pick up crumbs around the table, and is almost as tame as a chicken. All went well with the birds until the latter part of May, when early one morning I was called, and told to hurry up, my birds were out. I was out and dressed in a jiffy. The male was gone, the female in a neighbor's yard; I threw a few crumbs to her and caught her, but have never laid eyes on the male bird since, though a farmer, a little way off, saw him three times during the summer. The hen commenced laying a few weeks after, and laid thirteen eggs. Seven of the eggs I tried under a chicken, so as to have two chances, provided the female quail had not set and some of the eggs should prove good. Both failed, as I expected they would; having no male, the eggs were not impregnated. I fully believe I should have raised a covey of birds had I not been so unfortunate with the male. My friend kept his pair in a small mocking bird cage and lost them.

I saw an account in *Forest and Stream* some time ago that some one in Ohio had been successful in raising a covey of Californian quail. I have asked that paper twice for the party's address; they either did not receive my communication, or were not disposed to look up the address. Can you inform me of any party or parties dealing in these birds that I may be able to negotiate for a male or pair of birds. I am fully convinced that I can breed them, and think too they will stand the climate. I have tried Reiche, the New York bird fancier, and others, but failed to find what I wanted. I am afraid it would be of no use to send to California without it was with some friend that would take special care of them. B. N. G.

NOTES FROM AUSTIN, TEXAS.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—In this letter I propose to give an account of one of my shooting excursions. I started from home at nine o'clock, intending to go to the prairie after ducks, plovers and such other game as came in my way. My first destination was to a bog which has never failed to contain a few snipes. After two hours' drive I arrived there, hitched the horses and started to walk through the bog. I had not made ten steps when five snipes arose; I immediately gave them a salute of two barrels, which knocked a couple of them down. I got two other shots without bringing anything to bag. I then went down a little branch until I came to a place which looked rather "snipy," and just as I jumped out of the buggy a teal sprang out of the marsh and went down the stream some three hundred yards; I followed him and gave him a dose of No. 5's as he got up which immediately "settled his hash." After disposing of Mr. Teal I started for a prairie about two miles distant. When I got there I killed two plovers, there being only one bunch. I next proceeded to a pond that affords feed to a few ducks and snipes, but when I drove up to it I found a dozen or two cows feeding in it. Thinking, however, that there might be a snipe or two, I alighted from the buggy and made ready for them. A dozen or more were found, of which I killed five, also a pintail that sprang out of the grass near the cows. After slaughtering the ducks and snipes I sat down to an excellent lunch. Lunch being over, I started for home, picking up three doves and five plovers on the way. Though my bag was not very heavy, yet the enjoyment fully repaid any trouble which was taken. The golden and tattler plovers are rapidly coming in, and in a few weeks the prairie will be covered with them. JUVENIS.

A CORRECTION.—Memphis, Tenn.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—Referring to Mr. Edmund Orgill's hybrid, or anomalous fowl, I had the pleasure of presenting him, your last issue says "it is without a model, a (living) shadow." It is not so much of a Bony-part as that, but is a fine hearty fowl. Read "without a model or a (living) shadow." Also slide the s from quails, snipes, woodcocks. I think it was as euphonious to say *grouses* as snipes, quails, woodcocks. And forgot to say, in my last, that Joe Jr., ran in the worst time of day at Nashville, 1 to 2 o'clock. GUIDO.

Rifle.

Contest for the Chicago Field Badge.

The following is the score for the tenth and last competition of Thomas Post, G. A. R., for the CHICAGO FIELD badge. There were thirty-two entries, but we are able to give the score of but twenty-two, ten not having shot up to last Friday night.

SCORE.	
1—Myron W. Lyman.....	5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 5—49
2—Capt. J. C. Borchardt.....	4 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 5—48
3—Wm. H. Chenoweth.....	5 5 4 5 5 4 5 5 5—48
4—J. A. Plummer.....	5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 4—48
5—Daniel B. Freeman.....	5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 4—48
6—Col. Jas. A. Shaffer.....	5 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 4—48
7—S. M. Tyrell.....	5 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 4—44
8—Ecton Kellogg.....	4 5 4 4 4 5 5 5 4—44
9—Lu. H. Drury.....	4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 4—43
10—Henry D. Field.....	5 4 4 4 5 5 4 5 4—43
11—Gen'l. J. S. Reynolds.....	4 5 5 4 5 5 5 5 4—43
12—B. J. Gleason.....	4 5 4 4 5 5 4 4 4—42
13—Harry Wagar.....	4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 4—42
14—Col. Edgar D. Swain.....	4 5 4 4 5 5 4 5 4—42
15—Thos. H. Reeves.....	3 5 4 4 4 5 4 4 4—41
16—Charles L. Wehe.....	4 5 4 4 5 5 4 4 4—41
17—Thos. Randall.....	5 4 5 4 5 5 5 5 4—41
18—Joseph K. Evans.....	4 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—39
19—Geo. H. Lucke.....	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—38
20—Phil. Gunlock.....	4 4 4 4 3 3 3 4 5—37
21—Matthew Kelly.....	4 5 4 4 3 3 3 4 4—36
22—Dr. Zenas P. Hanson.....	3 4 5 2 3 3 4 4 5—36

All scores in up to 10 o'clock Friday evening.

This is to certify that the above scores have been counted in my presence and found correct.

COL. EDGAR D. SWAIN, Pres. G. H. Thomas Rifle Club.

MYRON W. LYMAN,
J. C. BORCHARDT,
PHIL. GUNLOCK,
Prize Committee.

RIFLE AT WACO, TEXAS.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—Please find score of a short-range rifle shoot which took place at Lane's Gallery, March 2, 1878; 20 shots; a possible 100.

W. T. Lane.....	5 4 5 4 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5—97
C. C. McCulloch.....	5 5 4 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 5—94
J. Marshall.....	5 4 4 5 5 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 5 4 5 5 5 4—92
E. Early.....	5 5 5 4 5 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5—92
R. Parrott.....	5 5 4 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 5—90

We will have our 350-yard range complete in a few days; then our military company will commence to practice with Springfield rifles. We hope to have a long-range team in a very short time. I don't think it will be long before I can send you score of 1,000-yards shooting. Where can I get book of instructions for long-range shooting?

WACO.

The Unkindest Cut of All.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 16, 1877.

EDITOR CHICAGO FIELD: When Caesar was beset by assassin hands his courage did not falter till he saw the hand of Brutus—a man of his own elevating—raised to strike a blow. Then his heart quailed before the ingratitude. "Et tu Brutus?" he exclaimed, and veiling his head he resigned himself to that death which had no further pain to him than the bite of ingratitude. The old song says:

"Blow, blow thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind,
Thy breath is not so keen,
Thy tooth is not so rude
As man's ingratitude!"

or words to that effect.

You led the assault upon the would-be Caesar of the rifle clubs of this country—you struck the first blow at the glaring absurdity of the self-assumed position held by the National Rifle Association of New York. You first and persistently drew the eyes of riflemen to the usurpation of a public position by a private club. Yet the cuticle was tough—the mantle of pride was thick—and the weapons of such mere outsiders as the CHICAGO FIELD were scorned. Though the blows struck in your columns opened other eyes to see the incongruity and other arms to strike, Caesar would not give in. But now that Brutus has raised his hand and struck a blow, will it be mortal? To drop allegory and come to facts is the simplest way to my point.

At the recent meeting of the American Team, or let me call it the American Trophy Team, after discussing some points regarding the sending of the Palma to the Paris exposition by Messrs. Tiffany & Co. as part of their exhibit, Mr. Isaac Allen addressed the meeting and said: "I rise to ask for an expression of opinion of the gentlemen present as to what authority the National Rifle Association have for the appointing of a committee to arrange a programme for the selection of the international team for the year 1878? I may be mistaken in the matter, but after thinking over it a great deal and obtaining the opinions of others, I am inclined to believe they are arrogating to themselves more authority than they are entitled to. I am of opinion that the members of the team who are the present holders and guardians of the Centennial Trophy are the proper ones to arrange the plan for the selection of the team which is to follow and which is to defend against all comers the supremacy which our country has gained and of which all Americans are so justly proud. I would also like to ask a question. Suppose we do not have any foreign competitors for the trophy, what will be done? Will there be a team selected, by competitors, to go and shoot a walk over on a certain day, or will the present team do the walk over and hold the trophy another year?"

If this does not bring the "coon out of the tree I don't know what will.

But there was more of it, for the discussion that followed showed very clearly that the team generally considered the N. R. A. a mere local organization and not the national representative. Our rifle association was cited as ignoring the authority of the N. R. A., and the result of the discussion was formulated by the unanimous adoption of the following resolution presented by Mr. Weber: "That the adoption of the team be empowered to appoint a committee of three to draw up a plan of selecting the American National Rifle team of 1878 and submit it at their next team meeting for approval or amendment." General Dakin appointed Messrs. Weber, Allen and Jewell as the committee above proposed.

There is but one meaning to this. There can no longer be self assertion without action. It is a question of open war or of resignation on the part of the N. R. A. It will be interesting to see what action the directors of the club will take concerning this blow. That it must be fatal to their long asserted pretensions is without doubt, and, Mr. Editor, I call upon you to throw your pen again into the balance and urge upon the prominent riflemen that the time for united action has arrived. WILL O' THE WISP.

UNDER THE FIFTH RIB.—New York, March 13, 1878.—*Editor Chicago Field*:—On taking up the *Herald*, this morning I was startled to find in its columns the account of a most appalling mutiny—a case of insubordination that must utterly overthrow an already tottering throne. I have long been a convert to your views on the National Rifle Association, and its self-assumed position, but have been a mere quail in an enormous sum total of blind believers in its authority. Your bold blows, your clear exposition of the situation however opened the eyes of men and unloosed their tongues to lick against the falling monarch. And it did—but not before venting all over the country, and sounding public opinion through its numerous correspondents. That exceedingly conservative journal likes to sail with the wind and current, and would not 'bout ship till it wouldn't do not to. Of course, it now arrogates to itself all the credit of upsetting the power of the N. R. A.; but it may do so as much as it likes. The thinking men know whence came the first blow.

You always pegged into the N. R. A.'s assumption in lively style, but though you did it much harm I don't think you hurt them as badly as did the events of yesterday.

At a meeting of the American Team at the *Turf, Field and Farm* office, Messrs. Tiffany & Co. presented a request to be allowed to exhibit the "Palma," or Trophy, at the Paris Exposition. After some little talk this permission was given, if there was no acceptance by the first of June of the challenge sent out to all nations to come here and compete for it. Then came the trouble for the N. R. A. Mr. Allen questioned the right of the N. R. A. to select the American Team in international contests; he said: "I may be mistaken in the matter, but after thinking over it a great deal and obtaining the opinions of others, I am inclined to believe that they are entitled." If this was not a whack under the fifth rib—and from a man of their own making too—I don't know what the meaning of that phrase may be. Mr. Allen further continued to explain that he thought the present team had the right to select a team for the next contest.

The result of this was a discussion in which it is quite evident that the stuffing was completely knocked out of the N. R. A., for upon Mr. Weber moving that "the captain of the team be empowered to appoint a committee of three to draw up a plan for selecting the American National Rifle Team of 1878, and submit it at their next team meeting for approval or amendment," the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The *Herald* says in conclusion: "The importance of the resolution can be better appreciated when it is remembered that at their last monthly meeting the directors of the National Rifle Association appointed a committee for the same purpose. This action of the team places them in direct issue with the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association."

Now is your time to call upon the riflemen. Let them have your ideas on the subject. SPANROW.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—An adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association was held March 13. A communication was received from a city firm offering, through the association, a prize of \$50 for the best combined score card for long and short range, if practicable, or \$25 each for the best one adapted to long or short range, the limits and requirements to be set forth by a committee.

A committee appointed at a previous meeting reported that the duty of the Finance Committee was to exercise a general supervision of the finances of the association, and that no obligations of the association beyond those necessary for current wants should be made until the Finance Committee had considered and reported thereon; also that no bills should be paid until they had been reported upon by said committee. The report was adopted.

After some amendments the plans and specifications and contract for the erection of a club house at Creedmoor were adopted. The building, which is to cost \$7,000, is to be erected by a private party and to have the hotel privileges in that portion of the building not occupied by the association. A lease of five years is given to the party, with privilege of renewal at the expiration of that time. The agreement between the parties specifies that no spirituous or malt liquors shall be sold to troops while practicing on the ground.

A motion was carried to open the range on the 1st of April.

Hunting.

Queen's County Hunt.

The meet of the Queens County Hunt was at the kennel, Meadow Brook, where, at the appointed hour, a fair field, including two ladies, were found ready to start for New Cassel, as had been agreed upon. The day was exceedingly pleasant, though, perhaps, slightly too warm for the sport, and brought out many of the residents of the neighboring villages, making a gathering almost equal to some of the enjoyable occasions of last Fall. After a brisk gallop to the depot at New Cassel, the hounds were uncoupled and the start was at once made. In a twinkling the pack shot away to the eastward when, running 200 yards in that direction, they suddenly wheeled to the northeast, and, finding the scent, increased their pace so much that the riders found it difficult to keep them in sight. Swinging across the railroad track there was a merry burst up a country road, when, with a ring and harmony in their music, the hounds worked out of the road over into the fields, where several barriers presented themselves, but all were taken successfully and without accident. A snug piece of cover was then met, and the resolute pack dashed through it in amazing style. On the other side there were three or four fences in the path of the hunters, which they charged in fine style without any of the riders being brought to grief. The northeast direction was still maintained, which, in a short time, brought pack and hunters to the Jericho road, where, the obstacles on both sides of this highway being taken in good style, the farming country was once again met. A quarter of a mile further on the scent for the first time became cold and fragmentary, and the hounds for a brief period were at fault. The field meanwhile scattered over the surrounding farms and on a country lane, and when near the village of Jericho fifty or more men and women had gathered near the spot and were cheering the hunters. At last, with patience, the scent was discovered, the pack carrying it still to the northeast, over farm lands and many fences, though but few of the jumps were serious, all making them easily. The hounds flashed the line over the open country, leaving Hicksville to the right, and for two miles or more there were no obstacles worth mentioning. This burst was very exciting. The busy pack went straight as a rifle ball. Riders, one and all kept close upon them, while the carriage folks spun along the Huntington road and seemed fully as interested as those in the pigskin.

At last the scent carried the hounds into a thick cover to the left of the road, along which they had been running for several minutes, and its approaches were so thickly covered with underbrush that the ladies were obliged to seek the more easy going road on the turnpike. Two of the gentlemen accompanied them, but before they had reached the cover through a narrow lane and across two or three fields, the pack had disappeared from their sight. Only six of the field were thus lucky enough to be present at the finish, which occurred just beyond the cover, at a point about five miles northeast of Hicksville, on the Huntington road. In due time, however, the scattered field came together again, and the gallop back to the kennel ended just before sundown. The run was about ten miles, something less than either of the previous Spring meets.

The next meet will be at Garden City, on the 16th inst., at the usual hour, the reunion contemplated on Wednesday next being abandoned on account of pressing business engagements on the part of some of the gentlemen who wish to take part in every hunt.

Summer Meetings

AT

Kansas City, Mo.

\$5,000 in Premiums.

Riverview Park Meeting,

JUNE 27, 28 and 29, 1878.

Exposition Association Meeting,

JULY 2, 3 and 4, 1878.

At each meeting the following programme is offered:

FIRST DAY.

- No. 1. Running purse; \$100, open to all. Dash one mile.
- No. 2. Running stake, for 3-year-olds. Mile and repeat. \$25 entrance, p. p., \$300 added by the Association.
- No. 3. Trotting purse; \$200, for 2:30 class.

SECOND DAY.

- No. 4. Running stake, for 2-year-olds, dash five furlongs. \$25 entrance, p. p., \$250 added by the Association.
- No. 5. Trotting purse; \$200, for 2:40 class.
- No. 6. Trotting purse; \$100, open to all. 1/2 mile heats.

THIRD DAY.

- No. 7. Running purse; \$250, for all ages. Mile and repeat.
- No. 8. Trotting purse; \$500, free for all classes.

- No. 9. Running post stake; open to all. Dash 1/4 mile. \$25 entrance, p. p., \$250 added by the Association.
- No. 10. Trotting purse; \$200, for 3 minute class.

All trotting races to National Trotting Association Rules. Running race to Lexington Rules. (for weights see programme), trotting entries close June 1, 1878.

No record made after May 1, 1878. Stakes close at 1 p. m. the night previous to the race. Entrances to all purses 10 per cent. of purse. For full information of programme address,

A. D. CARSON, Sup't. Riverview Park, or D. L. HALL, Sec'y Kansas City Exposition, Kansas City, Mo.

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A. & G. W. R. R.
Geo. H. Ellard, Cincinnati, O., Gen'l Agent Wright's Glass Ball Trap.
W. F. White, Topeka, Kas., Gen'l Ticket Agent, A. T. & S. F. R. R.
Geo. W. Pickard, Cincinnati, O., Cincinnati Shooting and Fishing Club.
E. F. Wright, Cincinnati, O., Wyoming Shooting Club.
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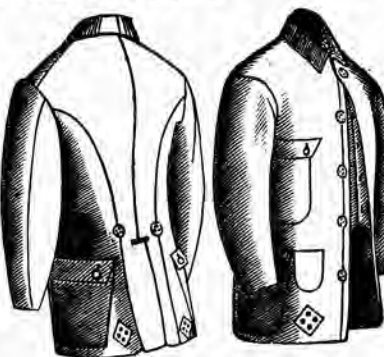
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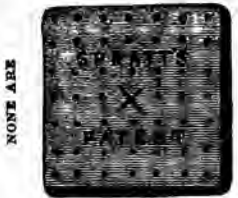
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Entries close April 10.

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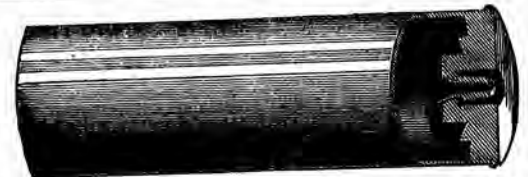
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